

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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**155** without a government budget for FY 2009  
**DAYS**

## INSIDE



### Manhunt

Bangladesh deployed soldiers nationwide to hunt down over 1,000 border guards involved in a bloody mutiny.

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### Shanghaied

The day began with a trip to the top of the Shanghai World Financial Center Observatory, one of the tallest buildings in the world.

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Rifu found liable to pay \$85,083 to 56 workers. **PAGE 5**

## Water shortage hits Gualo Rai

### Service production cut by 14 percent

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Residents of Gualo Rai have been experiencing a severe drop in water supply for many days now due to broken water wells. Since last week, residents have been getting just about two hours of water service daily. On Monday, they actually had to do without.

Bruce Megarr, deputy director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water and wastewater division, disclosed yesterday that the problem is due to eight wells being down—two in Gualo Rai, two in Puerto Rico, and four in other areas.

"It's cutting production off by 14 percent," he said.

Gualo Rai resident Violy Ablog said she understands CUC's situation but she cannot

ignore the fact that her family is affected by the inadequate supply of water since last week. She cited an instance where she needed to buy 500 gallons of water for \$50 just to sustain their daily water needs.

Ablog has a bedridden father and a number of tenants in the area.

She said CUC usually opens water service in the morning for about two hours.

"We can't even fill all our

See **WATER** on Page 4

## Indictment vs Villagomez found sufficient

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The federal court has determined that the indictment filed against Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and

his co-defendants "is sufficient."

In denying Villagomez's motion for a bill of particulars, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson also rejected the defendants' re-

quest for specific facts regarding which CNMI procurement laws and federal regulations were violated by the allegations.

Munson said Villagomez and co-defendants James A.

Santos and Joaquina V. Santos are not charged with violation of CNMI procurement or federal regulations.

Moreover, the judge said, See **INDICTMENT** on Page 4

## Man in coma, woman hurt in 2 robberies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A man is now in a coma after he was attacked, possibly by two men, while a woman was seriously injured during an armed robbery in separate incidents on Saipan last Friday and yesterday.

A 44-year-old Palauan man suffered major injuries during the attack. As of yesterday, he was still in a coma at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to the Department of Public Safety.

The second victim, a Korean woman, suffered multiple lacer-

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## IT&E to expand NMI's 1st call center

### Fitial poised to approve QC application

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

IT&E plans to expand the CNMI's first call center to 200-300 seats from the current 40 seats, providing more jobs, more investments and additional revenue for the government during these tough economic times.

From having only about 10 employees when it opened in May 2008, IT&E's call center now has 57 telephone operators, supervisors and other personnel taking in 6,000 to 13,000 calls a day.

The 40-seat call center provides 411 directory assistance services mainly to Hawaiian Telcom customers 24 hours a day,



and is now exploring partnerships with other U.S.-based investors to outsource similar services, according to Robert Harell, executive director of IT&E's customer contact operations.

IT&E executives said the close to \$3 million in planned expansion will help boost the local economy.

Yesterday, IT&E president and chief executive officer Ricky Delgado gave Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, Insular Affairs field

See **IT&E** on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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## Local

# Proposed bill hikes license fees by 100 pct.-5,900 pct.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Banks, wholesalers, roadside vendors, scuba tours and virtually all other businesses in the CNMI will see "staggering" increases in annual license fees by 100 percent to 5,900 percent if House Bill 16-217 becomes law, according to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber president Jim Arenovski asked House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul to reject H.B. 16-217, which he said is simply another attempt to increase taxes in the guise of fees.

The proposed increases in business license fees amount to anywhere between \$95 and \$3,000. (See list)

Wholesalers, for example, will be required to pay \$3,000 in business license fee instead of the current \$50, a difference of \$2,950 or a 5,900-percent increase.

Offshore banks will have to pay an additional \$3,000 to secure a business license fee—from \$1,000 to \$4,000.

Roadside vendors of local fruits, vegetables and fish products that currently pay \$5 in an-

FAST FACTS			
Fee	Current amount	Proposed amount	% Increase
Wholesalers	\$50	\$3,000	5,900%
Manufacturers	\$50	\$2,000	3,900%
Roadside vendors (local products)	\$5	\$100	1,900%
Insurance brokers	\$100	\$700	600%
Retail/commercial banks	\$500	\$3,000	500%
Scuba instruction/tours	\$100	\$600	500%
Offshore banks	\$1,000	\$4,000	300%
Insurance agents	\$75	\$300	300%
Securities dealers	\$300	\$1,000	233%
Public utilities	\$300	\$600	100%
General business	\$50	\$100	100%
Roadside vendors (imported products)	—	\$200	—

SOURCE: SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

nual business license fee will be required to pay \$100.

"We have, and will continue to, oppose tax increase measures in the midst of the Commonwealth's economic depression," Arenovski told Yumul in a Feb. 27 letter.

He said increasing taxes or fees at a time when business revenues are dwindling and costs are continuing to increase is not business-friendly.

"The private business sector is already the largest contributor to the Commonwealth's general fund. Additionally, the size of the proposed increases is staggering and unsupported," the Chamber president said.

The CNMI has lost its once mighty garment industry and is now relying mostly on tourism and federal aid to sustain the economy. As a result, business gross revenue and government collection in taxes and fees have been on a steep decline.

Reps. David Apatang, Oscar M. Babauta and Justo S. Quitua,

cosponsors of H.B. 16-217, said the business license fees in the CNMI have remained unchanged for many years, while the costs associated with processing the licenses have increased.

### 'Enforce laws instead'

In his two-page letter to Yumul, Arenovski said the appropriate means to increase tax and fee collections is through the enforcement of existing laws and encouraging new business operations on the islands by making the CNMI more business-friendly.

"These increases will discourage new investment in the Commonwealth and will harm current business at a time when most companies are facing decreased revenues and increased costs," he said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business group in the CNMI. Its Government Relations Committee regularly comments on bills affecting businesses in the CNMI.

## 8 school teams facing off in mock trial competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Eight public and private high schools in the CNMI will be facing off this week in the 11th annual CNMI High School Mock Trial Competition for the chance to represent the Commonwealth at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Atlanta, Georgia in May.

These include Grace Christian Academy, Saipan International School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Mount Carmel School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High, Rota Junior High, and Tinian Junior/Senior High School.

Organized by the CNMI Bar Association, the competition aims to promote and further the understanding and appreciation of the judicial system, court procedures, and the legal system.

It also aims to promote better communications and coopera-

tion between the legal and educational communities, improve awareness of current social and legal issues, as well as provide an educational event to support students of all abilities and varying interests.

The first round of the competition will begin on March 6 at 9am while team advancement rounds will take place on March 7 at 8:30am.

Winning team will qualify to represent the CNMI in the National High School Mock Trial Competition, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia in May 2009.

Karen Klaver, coordinator for the event, stated in a letter to school teams that with eight teams competing, each team will participate in rounds 1 to 3. Each team will have a chance to present prosecution and defense at least once.

"We expect each round to last approximately two hours.

See 8 SCHOOL on Page 4



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## DUE TO LOW REVENUE PROJECTIONS FOR FY'09

# Tinian govt mulls austerity measures

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The potential loss of Chinese visitors due to federalization could result in austerity measures for Tinian government employees, with projected revenues for Fiscal Year 2009 expected to top a measly \$3.2 million.

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas said yesterday that his office is looking at cutting the hours of its 129 employees to as low as 64 hours every two weeks if the revenue projections stand.

"I am the first mayor, first politician, and elected leader to first take action on austerity measures since 2006. We started at seven hours daily work, which gave us savings then of \$1.7 million, but thereafter we resumed the eight-hour daily

work [schedule]," he said.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Joseph Mendiola earlier disclosed that the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission and the island's municipal treasury project revenue for FY 2009 to reach just \$3.2 million. "The figure was based on both the gaming commission's and municipal treasurer's estimates," Mendiola said.

San Nicolas noted that in the past he was criticized for shutting down street lamps on Tinian, which resulted in a significant drop in the power bills of the municipality.

"Those are just some of unpopular decisions and actions I have made for Tinian...and I am willing to do the same if that's the only way we can survive this fiscal year," he said.

San Nicolas added the salaries of his employees were also cut by 10 percent last year.

Mendiola said the drop in anticipated revenue was a result of the impact of pending federalization of the local labor and immigration systems.

"We have to consider that the bulk of the customers who are coming to Tinian are passengers from the [Tinian] Dynasty's charter flights. With the impending immigration issues, we may not have the opportunity to bring in those customers anymore," he said, adding that Tinian may still have them but it would take longer because of the regular visa processing for these travelers.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino caters mostly to Chinese visitors, who have been exclud-

ed from the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program.

As an alternative, Mendiola said Tinian needs to boost marketing efforts for its other markets such as Japan and Korea to at least offset the impact of possibly losing the Chinese travelers.

Mendiola said the delegation has asked the municipal treasurer for a comprehensive report on the island's finances to determine if there's a need to carry out austerity measures among employees.

"We need to find out what is the basic cost of employment on Tinian, how much are the benefits provided, retirement and medical. We need documents that would indicate what are the municipality's fixed costs...until these are not submitted to us we cannot

decide fairly," he said.

Tinian Dynasty is the only operating casino on island. It remits a portion of its taxes to the gaming commission to pay for the municipality's salary. But because of the island's slow economy, the funds have dropped considerably.

Mendiola said they were supposed to receive the treasurer's report last Monday.

Once enforced, the austerity measures will encompass the entire municipality of Tinian.

"The decision has to be made by everybody who is involved including the municipal council, the mayor, gaming commission and the delegation members," Mendiola said, adding that as soon as he receives the report, a meeting will be called by delegation members.

## Chamber sets meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its regular general membership meeting today, March 4, 2009, at Palms Resort Saipan, with Bruce Megarr of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as guest speaker.

Megarr will speak with members about the stipulated order entered into with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding water and wastewater. Members will hear about what the orders require and what the business community can look forward to with respect to drinking water, wastewater, and potential rate impact.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, the meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. (SCC)

## WATER

From Page 1

containers," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that she hopes CUC would do its best to fix the problem soon.

Another resident in the area, Celang Orallo, said the situation also affects her household.

Megarr said the water problem

in Gualo Rai started on Feb. 18 and CUC is just awaiting the arrival of new high quality pumps this week to fix the problem.

"We're expecting to address this concern in a week to 10 days," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "But still we're hoping we can address it sooner than expected."

Megarr explained that Gualo Rai is the far end of the distribution system for Puerto Rico

and needs all residents' water tanks to be filled first before it could actually serve the whole Gualo Rai area.

Megarr said CUC intends to use better quality casings on pumps in the area to make sure they will last longer.

These new equipment are more expensive, though, and the delivery of the materials takes longer than normal, so the water

division is using some old-style pumps to temporarily fix the problems, Megarr said.

"Our game plan is to see all these [replacements] done. In the meantime, we use old-style pumps because it takes months before we get the high-quality stainless [ones]. So, do I leave our customers without water for months? No. That's why we're putting in some lower qual-

ity pumps and dealing with the cost," Megarr said.

The official said CUC is deeply concerned about its customers' plight. "We have an obligation and I sincerely apologize for these service interruptions," he said, adding that "not having water in our pipes" is also a public health issue.

Megarr said the CUC water division needs more sup-

plies to take care of leaks in its distribution system and more storage tanks to effectively carry out its functions.

He disclosed that some eight months ago, CUC replaced the pumps in the Gualo Rai area, leading to the discovery of other existing problems such as transformer arrangements, which produce excess heat and wasted energy.

## MAN

From Page 1

ations to the back of head, contusions and abrasions to the face and body. She is currently under observation at CHC.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the Palauan man was found lying on his back on the main road in front of Leo Poker

in San Jose early Friday morning.

A witness told responding police officers that he heard screams from outside his home and when he checked he saw the man lying on the roadway.

The witness saw two men running north toward San Jose Mart.

Ogumoro said the second incident happened outside the New Fresh Market in Chalan Laulau

early yesterday morning.

Ogumoro said the Korean woman was attacked by a masked man with a blunt object during a robbery at the parking lot of the store.

After hitting the victim on the head with a blunt object and taking her purse, the suspect fled into the grassy area across the road.

A witness brought the victim

to CHC.

Responding police officers later recovered the victim's purse in the grassy area where the suspect had fled.

Crime scene investigators recovered from the grassy area a piece of wood that had bloodstains on it. Investigators also found another 2 x 2 piece of wood near the scene.

No one has been arrested yet in both cases as of yesterday.

## INDICTMENT

From Page 1

violation of specific CNMI procurement regulations or specific federal regulations are not elements of the charges that were brought in the first superseding indictment.

"Therefore, the requested facts are not necessary to inform defendants of the charges against them, to enable them to plead an acquittal or conviction to bar future prosecutions for the same offenses, or to unambiguously set forth all elements necessary to constitute the offenses," Munson added.

The indictment charged Villagomez and the Santos couple with bribery concerning a pro-

gram receiving federal funds, conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.

The new indictment alleged that Villagomez accepted a \$15,000 bribe from the Santos couple for approving the purchase of Rydlyme, a cleaning and de-scaling chemical, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The couple was also charged with bribery for allegedly offering the \$15,000 to Villagomez.

The three pleaded not guilty.

Villagomez had filed a motion for a bill of particulars through counsel David J. Lujan, arguing that the bribery charges were based on conjecture and speculations by the U.S. government.

Lujan said the U.S. government alleging that Villagomez received two checks and making the "giant leap in logic" that it constitutes bribery places him in an impossible situation in preparing his defense.

The Santos couple joined in Villagomez's motion.

In the U.S. government's response, Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley insisted that the two charges in the new indictment against Villagomez and the Santos couple sufficiently described the offense of bribery filed against them.

O'Malley pointed out that the sufficiency of an indictment is not determined by whether it can be more definite or certain.

O'Malley said a bill of particulars is not needed if an indict-

ment provides detail sufficient to inform the defendants of the charges against them and full discovery of evidence has been provided.

Bill of particulars refers to a list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of the other party. The list itemizes details of a claim or defense.

Munson found that the first superseding indictment sufficiently alleges counts four and five, charging the defendants with bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds.

Accordingly, the judge said, a bill of particulars is not necessary.

Munson has also denied all previous motions filed by Villagomez and his co-defendants.

## IT&E

From Page 1

representative Jeff Schorr, and others a tour of the IT&E call center in Susupe.

"I'm very impressed," Fitial told reporters after a tour of the facility for the first time.

The governor said he will approve IT&E's qualifying certificate application, which was filed about two weeks ago with the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The final approval or disapproval of the QC application rests with the governor.

"They will get it," Fitial said.

Delgado, who was also a guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting at Hyatt Regency yesterday, asked for businesses' support for IT&E's QC application.

The Qualifying Certificate Program, which was established on Dec. 1, 2000, grants tax incentives to investors to put up new investments in the CNMI or assist existing investors to expand their operations.

Larry Knecht, executive vice president of IT&E, said they are awaiting a decision by CDA on their QC application.

IT&E, previously PTL, is now the largest telecommunications company in the Marianas with over 75,000 total subscribers on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

Knecht, in an interview with reporters, said IT&E can quantify the QC benefits in terms of excise tax breaks because of the amount of investment

to be made, the equipment to be brought into the CNMI, and business gross revenue tax breaks, among other things.

He said IT&E invested some \$250,000 in the 40-seat call center, which will run up to \$2 million when it expands.

A typical call center investment is \$8,000 to \$10,000 a seat. "So if you're running 200 seats, that's \$2 million bucks so it's quite an investment to make, to really expand the services and [make it] very competitive," said Knecht.

He added, "We went ahead with this business to prove to the CNMI that it's possible. There's been a lot of talk in the past about call centers. And it's now for real; you're standing on it. This is a 40-seat call center that's taking in 6,000 to 10,000 calls a day. So it's not a make-believe. It's for real. Were here to show the community that if you work with us on this QC for the future, we can develop jobs in the CNMI, and we think we can have 200 to 300 jobs here one day."

According to a report that CDA released in November 2007, the QC program has attracted 11 companies, produced immediate benefits of \$28.12 million from capital expenditures, and generated a total of \$100.59 million in taxes, local purchases, utility payments, and other community contributions over the seven years the program has been in place.

But the report did not indicate the amount of taxes waived for QC beneficiaries under the program.

## 8 SCHOOL

From Page 2

In the past, some rounds have taken up to three hours," she told school teams.

On Saturday, Klaver said two teams will compete in the championship round and advancement to this champion-

ship round will be based on the accumulation of ballots from Friday's competition.

"After round 3, we will tabulate the results and determine which teams will advance to the championship round," she said, adding that announcement of the two teams that will compete in the championship round will made at the des-

sert banquet on Friday night at Charley's in PIC.

The CNMI High School mock trial program was started 10 years ago by the late Justice Ramon G. Villagomez when he was the president of the CNMI Bar Association. The program has continued as a volunteer effort, thanks to dedicated attorneys, teachers,

judges, justices and students in the CNMI.

The competition will be held at the Guma Hustisia's Superior and Supreme Courts on Friday and Saturday this week.

The Mount Carmel School team won last year's mock trial tilt and represented the CNMI in the national competition in Delaware.

# Rifu found liable to pay \$85,083 to 56 workers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has found the defunct Rifu Apparel liable to pay wages to 56 of its alien workers plus medical expenses to four of those employees, for a total of \$85,083.89.

At a status conference held at Labor on Feb. 20, Rifu, through its resident manager Maria Ada and counsel Richard Pierce, acknowledged its obligation to pay wages to its employees for 30 days following the official notice date of closure.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody ordered Rifu to pay \$1,684.80 to each of the 48 workers—for a total of \$80,870.40—for unpaid wages from Dec. 12, 2008, through March 8, 2009.

Cody said the 48 employees are owed unpaid wages from the date

of their last paycheck on Dec. 6, 2008, until the end of the 30-day notice period, March 8.

Cody also ordered Rifu to pay eight other workers with wages ranging from \$21.60 to \$539.86.

The eight employees hold work permits that are expiring within the 30-day notice period or between Feb. 6, 2009, to March 8, 2009.

Cody determined that these eight workers are entitled to receive wages from Dec. 6, 2008, until the expiration date of their permits.

With respect to medical expenses, Cody ordered Rifu to reimburse four workers in the amount ranging from \$65.60 to \$834.92 for the payments they made using their own funds.

Rifu also acknowledged its obligation to cover these medical expenses.

Cody gave the company 21

days to pay each worker.

"In the event that Rifu fails to pay the wage awards and unpaid medical expenses in a timely manner, the applicable surety bond company shall be responsible for paying such amounts to the limits specified in each bond," he said.

Failure to pay the bonds in bad faith, Cody said, may lead to sanctions assessed against the bonding company.

The hearing officer required Rifu to provide repatriation airline tickets for all workers who do not find transfer employers or who decide to go back to their countries.

If Rifu fails to provide the tickets, Cody said, the applicable bond company shall be responsible for the tickets.

Last Feb. 20, Labor issued an order that allowed the 56 employees to seek new employers.

Rifu's general manager Kidong

Choi informed Labor on Nov. 19, 2008, that due to a delay in the confirmation of orders from buyers, there would be no production activities in the factory in San Vicente starting that week until the first week of March 2009.

Choi told Labor that workers should continue reporting to the factory as they will still be paid.

Rifu claimed that it planned to stop its operations temporarily for several months and then resume business operations.

Rifu then paid all of its current employees their wages through the period ending on Dec. 6, 2008.

On Feb. 6, 2009, Rifu gave a notice to Labor that it had closed permanently as of that date.

The following day, the two remaining garment factories on Saipan—U.S. CNMI Development Corp. and MGM—officially shut down operations.

critical juncture in our economic development...For these reasons, I am returning H.B. 16-4... to your offices, disapproved," Villagomez said.

## Administration junks bill to deposit govt funds only in FDIC banks

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

The administration disapproved a bill requiring all government funds to be deposited only in banks that are insured by a federal agency like or by a U.S. Treasury listed surety firm, saying it would likely result in fewer investments and less jobs.

On Friday, acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said while he commends the Legislature for its concern for the safety of government funds deposited into non-Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.-insured financial institutions, House Bill 16-4 presents a few notable concerns.

H.B. 16-4 or the CNMI Government and Public Deposit Safety Act of 2008, introduced by Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, requires government funds to be deposited in institutions whose deposits of less than \$100,000 are insured by an agency of the U.S. government or by a U.S. Treasury listed surety agency.

Villagomez said the bill would prevent the CNMI government from using reasonably safe and liquid money market funds that are not insured by the FDIC.

"Money market funds generally offer higher returns than bank deposits and the value of money market shares have historically never fell below the \$1 per share industry standard," Villagomez said in his message to Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes.

He added that despite the bill's good intentions and transition period, "its restrictive policy may substantially reduce our local banks' willingness to invest in our local economy."

Villagomez said at a time when banks in the United States are failing and the U.S. government is carrying out a massive bailout of many large U.S. banks, the CNMI banking industry remains stable and largely unaffected by the turmoil in the U.S. financial markets.

He said by requiring 100 percent collateral in U.S. Treasury

bills for government deposits, the amount of available funds for prudent private lending in the local economy may be significantly curtailed and may

well result in a credit or liquidity crisis for the CNMI economy.

"This would likely result in less investment and less job creation for our local economy, at a

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So I pushed the walkie-talkie button. I remember voices shouting back, 'Dad!' If not for the grace of God and my iConnect, it could have been too late."

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[www.icconnectsaipan.com](http://www.icconnectsaipan.com)



# 'Alien workers with 2 misdemeanors are deportable'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Alien workers who have at least two misdemeanor convictions could be deported even if their entry permits are not cancelled, according to Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman.

In a ruling issued yesterday, Wiseman said the status of an alien worker's entry permit does not form the basis for deportation.

Rather, an independent basis, completely freestanding from the worker's employment status, exists for deportation as provided in the Commonwealth law, the judge said.

Wiseman discussed the work entry permit issue in his order finding Filipino worker Julius L. Monton a deportable alien.

The judge said he finds by clear and convincing evidence

that Monton is a deportable alien based on more than two misdemeanor convictions.

He cited a 2002 criminal case wherein the respondent pleaded guilty to obstructing justice and driving under the influence. Wiseman also cited a 2005 traffic case wherein Monton was found guilty of DUI.

Wiseman ordered that Monton's travel documents, if any, be released to Immigration investigator Nick Reyes for repatriation purposes.

According to court records, Monton consented to deportation during a hearing on Oct. 23, 2008, in which he was ordered to explain why he should not be deported.

At that hearing, he requested that the order of deportation be stayed until the summer holiday because his children were enrolled in CNMI schools.

As a compromise, the Office of the Attorney General agreed to hold off the execution of the deportation order until the winter holiday.

Wiseman found the compromise acceptable. However, the judge noted that Monton could depart the CNMI immediately and that his family and children could join him in the Philippines after the 2008-2009 school year.

A review hearing was set for Jan. 15, 2009, where the worker was ordered to appear in court if he was still in the CNMI.

On Oct. 23, 2008, the Division of Immigration gave Monton a written stipulation to deportation,



Wiseman

stating the terms the parties agreed to during the court proceeding.

The stipulation read: "The Commonwealth agrees to stay the execution of the order of deportation until December of 2008 or January of 2009, or whenever the respondent's children have a semester or quarterly break between the 2008 and 2009 school year."

Monton never responded to the stipulation.

By Dec. 26, 2008, Monton still had not made contact with Immigration nor had he responded to the stipulation. Immigration then contacted Monton regarding the stipulation to deportation.

On Dec. 30, 2008, Immigration received a revised version of the stipulation from Monton, which changed the deportation date to "July 1, 2009, or as soon thereafter..."

Immigration opposed the proposed deportation date.

On Dec. 31, 2008, Immigration asked the court to execute an order of deportation that conforms to the agreement made during the October 2008 hearing.

Before ordering the deportation, Wiseman deemed it prudent to hold a complete hearing on Immigration's motion, despite Monton's previous agreement to deportation.

At the hearing on Feb. 2, Monton, through counsel Joe Hill, argued, for the first time, that he could not be deported until his valid work entry permit was cancelled.

Assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell appeared on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General and Immigration.

In his order yesterday, Wiseman found Monton's argument unpersuasive and ordered his deportation.

Wiseman said the undisputed

fact is that Monton holds a valid entry permit which was issued to him in September 2008, after his criminal convictions. Monton's permit is set to expire in September 2010.

Wiseman expressed concern regarding the renewal of the entry permit because at the time of the renewal, Monton's prior criminal convictions were a matter of record and should have prevented the renewal of his work entry permit.

The second undisputed facts, Wiseman noted, is that Monton has been convicted of three misdemeanors, which subject him to deportation.

Wiseman said Monton discussed two cases during the hearing in support of his contention that a hearing must first be held to cancel his valid two-year entry permit before he may be deported.

Wiseman said neither case "is on point or supports Monton's contention."

## Kilili: \$6.5M in Medicaid funding now available

WASHINGTON, D.C.—One small change in the law means a big difference in the out-of-pocket cost for Medicaid now shouldered by the CNMI government.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan reported from Washington that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed by the President last month, raises the cap on federal Medicaid reimbursement by 30 percent, easing the burden on the local government.

"That's an extra \$1.5 million of CNMI taxpayers' money that has been spent for Medicaid and now can be used for other purposes," Sablan said.

About 12,000 patients in the CNMI have the cost of their treatment paid by the Medicaid program, according to the CNMI Department of Public Health. More than half the patients are indigenous.

The annual cost of the program for the CNMI government is approximately \$7.2 million.

Sablan worked alongside other insular area members of Congress to raise the federal share of the program by 30 percent in the recently passed stimulus bill.

"This increase is overdue," said Sablan. "Federal Medicaid spending in the Northern Marianas—and all the insular areas—is below what U.S. states get. That places an undue burden on our local taxpayers to maintain this federal program."

"This stimulus funding for Medicaid will help ease that burden. It will also mean that there is extra money to help ensure adequate medical care for our population or pay for other important government services."

### A complicated formula

The federal payment to the CNMI is based on a compli-

cated formula and the CNMI has a choice in how to use the stimulus money.

There are two limits on how much the CNMI can get:

First is the "Federal Medical Assistance Percentages." FMAP is the percentage of a patient's Medicaid expenses covered by the federal government. In some States the FMAP is 80 percent. But in the CNMI it is 50 percent. This means that the federal government pays 50 percent of an individual's Medicaid expenses; and the NMI government is responsible for the remaining 50 percent of that individual's Medicaid expenses.

Second is a cap on the overall dollars the federal government will pay for Medicaid in the NMI. The 2009 cap was \$5 million. The local government is responsible for Medicaid expenses above this cap. Last year the CNMI paid \$7.2 million as

the local share.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act actually offers the CNMI a choice on how to get the new federal money.

Option one increases the FMAP percentage by 6.2 percent, so the federal government covered 56.2 percent of a patient's bill and the CNMI covered the remaining 43.8 percent. Option one also increases the overall cap by 15 percent to \$5.7 million.

Option two doesn't change the FMAP. The federal government and the CNMI both cover 50 percent of the bill. But option two raises the cap by 30 percent to \$6.5 million. That's an extra \$1.5 million to the CNMI

"It is up to the local government whether to choose option one or option two," said Sablan. "The money is available. Now it's their decision." (PR)

## \$400K grant eyed for Gardenia's rehab

BY **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commerce Department is eyeing about \$400,000 in federal assistance for the rehabilitation of the Pacific Gardenia Hotel, which it plans to use as the new small business development facility that will assist local entrepreneurs with low-cost rent for new ventures.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada told *Saipan Tribune* Monday said this will be the government's way to help small local entrepreneurs who encounter difficulties in starting their transactions.

Ada said that based on the

stimulus bill approved by President Barack Obama, the U.S. Small Business Administration will provide grants to local businesses on island.

The Commonwealth Development Authority, who took over the Pacific Gardenia Hotel, has approved Commerce's request to use the facility for small business development activities.

This comes after the SBDC program was stopped at the Northern Marianas College because grants were held back some years ago.

"We reached a verbal agreement with CDA and everybody is behind the idea. We're working together now in writing the grant application. We need at least \$400,000 to rehabilitate the facility so the people can start running businesses," Ada said, adding that the grant application will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration.

He cited as example a local entrepreneur wanting to start an accounting firm and could not afford to pay for rent and hire staff services.

Ada said Commerce is also gearing up for the revival of SBDC, which would also be funded through SBA.

SBDC, he said, would deal with counseling and guidance for entrepreneurs, which is an important aspect in any business' beginnings.

"SBDC is funded through SBA. Basically, we don't have it anymore because the funding was held back in the 1990s...so our goal is to try to get SBDC back and work on the business incubator program too," Ada said.

CDA had attempted to sell or lease the Pacific Gardenia property but failed due to some tax issues related to the company's former owners.

Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ) CIVIL  
ESTATE OF ) ACTION  
MARIA PIERE MALUS, ) NO.  
Deceased. ) 99-769D

ARONGRONG SANGI, NGARE  
NGALIIR BIWE AI IYEELE AIGHUGHUUL  
KKEPASAL AISSIS

Raal: 4/20/2009  
Loll Atoll: 1:30 p.m.  
Judge: Naraja

ARONGRONG NGALIIR TOALAP ARAMAS  
KKA EYOOR YAAR AKAAMWOSCH NGARE  
TIPITIP AISSIS SANGI:

1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHIA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

Arongrong ngngaliir aramas taolap, bew  
Jeffrey R. Kaipat mekoll Saipan Marianas Is. sangi  
yaal aapeliughugh, ngare ello bwe ii eschay school  
legheleghiil matt, iye yaal Maria Piere Malus, eghal  
tuungor ngali Superior Court of the Northern  
Marianas bew ebwe feru aighughul tepaal ngare  
kkepasa i yayy matt. Atollm aighughul matt yeele  
nga, Robert T. Torres, esq. Bwulaliolello, Plata  
Dr. Whispering Palm, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Bx  
503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

Arongrong iyaay aighughul kapasa ngare  
titlilapal i yayy matt, sangi school legheleghiil, Jeffrey  
R. Kaipat, ebwe bwele to woot 20th raliil April, 2009  
loll atoll 1:30 p.m. me loll imwal aweawe iye  
re makay Rm. 202A Superior Court of the Northern  
Marianas Is. Ngali alongeer aramas, tadap ikka  
remenggi bwe eyoor yami tipalugh nare aisis, lghal  
tunoor ngali ghami aubwe tolt. Ngare eyoor yami  
Ai-yeegh sangi arongrong, yeele au faing bwulaliolello  
Clerk of Court be rebwe alisi ghami, Ghiliso,  
Olomway.

ATTIWLIGH LOLL 17th raliil February, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN  
Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administrator, Jeffrey R. Kaipat

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ) CIVIL  
ESTATE OF ) ACTION  
MARIA PIERE MALUS, ) NO.  
Deceased. ) 99-769D

#### NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

DATE: APRIL 20, 2009  
TIME: 1:30 PM  
JUDGE: NAJARA

TO: GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY CREDITORS and  
THE HEIRS OF:

1. SOLTEIO KAIPAT
2. SISTO MALUS KAIPAT
3. JOSEPHIA MALUS KAIPAT
4. CONCEPCION KAIPAT RUBEN
5. CALISTRO MALUS KAIPAT
6. MARIA ROFAG SABLAN

A NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AND YOU ARE  
HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT JEFFREY R. KAIPAT of  
Saipan, Mariana Islands and in his capacity as the  
Administrator of the foregoing Estate of MARIA PIERE  
MALUS, Deceased, has petitioned the Superior Court  
of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
for a Decree of Final Distribution in said estate. The  
Attorney of Record is Robert Tenorio Torres, Esq.,  
whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms,  
Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on said Petition for a Decree of Final  
Distribution by Jeffrey R. Kaipat, as Administrator, has  
been set for a hearing on 20th of April, 2009 at the  
hour of 1:30 p.m. Courtroom 202A of the Superior  
Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
Islands, Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern  
Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities  
should appear at this hearing.

A copy of said Petition for a Decree of Final  
Distribution is available for review at the Office of the  
Clerk of Court. If you have any objection to said Petition  
for a Decree of Final Distribution, you are requested to  
notify the Clerk of Court and the Law Office of Robert  
Torres, Attorney at Law, at the address  
hereinabove indicated. You may also appear at the  
same time and date set for the hearing on the Petition  
for a Decree of Final Distribution to present your  
objection to the above-entitled Honorable Court.  
SO ORDERED this 17th day of February, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN  
Deputy Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 505301  
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.  
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way  
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950  
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801  
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Appearing for Petitioner  
ABRAHAMA AMIREZ

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF ) Civil Action  
SILVERIO M. AMIREZ ) No. 09-0055  
a.k.a. )  
SYLVERIO M. AMIRES )  
and )  
SILVERIO AMIRES, )  
Deceased. )

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

#### TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that  
ABRAHAMA AMIREZ, of Saipan,  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior  
Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands to be appointed as  
Administrator of the Estate of Silverio M.  
Amirez, deceased, and to determine the heirs  
of the decedent. The Attorney of record is  
DANILO T. AGUILAR, Esq., P.O. Box 505301,  
Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the  
petition is set for March 31, 2009, at the  
Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan,  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
Islands, at 1:30 p.m. All interested persons  
should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against  
the estate, or against the deceased should file  
their claims with the Clerk of Court of the  
Superior Court within sixty (60) days after  
the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 505301  
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.  
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way  
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950  
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801  
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner  
JESSELO UNABIA

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESSELO UNABIA, ) FCD-DI Civil  
Plaintiff, ) Action No. 09-0073  
v. )  
LUVIMIN A. )  
UNABIA, )  
Respondent. )

#### TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:

LUVIMIN A. UNABIA  
PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU  
ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your  
appearance or file any answer you wish to make  
to the Complaint filed with the Commonwealth  
Superior Court, within 30 days from the service  
date. You are instructed to make your appearance  
before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your  
answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of  
DANILO T. AGUILAR, whose address is P.O. Box  
505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as  
practicable after filing your answer or sending it  
to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain  
a copy of the Complaint by contacting  
Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your  
answer should be in writing and filed with the  
Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe,  
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you  
by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the  
Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file  
an answer in accordance with this Order To  
Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be  
entered against you for the relief of the Complaint.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a  
newspaper of general circulation, once a week  
for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of  
this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous  
places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO  
Associate Judge

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 505301  
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.  
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way  
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950  
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801  
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner  
MA. CRISTINA L. SARMIENTO

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MA. CRISTINA L. ) FCD-DI Civil Action  
SARMIENTO, ) No. 09-0074  
Plaintiff, )  
v. )  
ROD NOELA A. )  
SARMIENTO, )  
Respondent. )

#### TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:

ROD NOELA A. SARMIENTO  
PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU  
ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your  
appearance or file any answer you wish to make  
to the Complaint filed with the Commonwealth  
Superior Court, within 30 days from the service  
date. You are instructed to make your appearance  
before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your  
answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of  
DANILO T. AGUILAR, whose address is P.O. Box  
505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as  
practicable after filing your answer or sending it  
to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain  
a copy of the Complaint by contacting  
Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your  
answer should be in writing and filed with the  
Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe,  
Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you  
by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the  
Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file  
an answer in accordance with this Order To  
Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be  
entered against you for the relief of the Complaint.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a  
newspaper of general circulation, once a week  
for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of  
this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous  
places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO  
Associate Judge



# Two workers groups back letter writing drive

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Coalition of United Workers NMI (USA) and the Human Dignity Movement have responded to a call for letters to be sent to federal agencies to put a "human face" on individuals in the CNMI who will be affected by federalization by June 1.

Human rights activist Wendy Doromal and the Coalition of United Workers NMI initiated the letter writing campaign last week, which solicits letters from foreign contract workers, immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens, and others in the CNMI who will be affected by federalization.

Doromal said the campaign

has received an overwhelming response.

"We believe that this last move will pave the way to send our strong message to our friends in Washington that all walks of life on these beautiful islands of the CNMI are expecting a superb change in the history of the CNMI not only for its economic recovery but also in the granting of

enhanced status to guest workers," the two groups said in a statement Monday.

They called on guest workers, U.S. citizen children of foreign workers, spouses and children of citizens from the Freely Associated States, alien spouses of U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, widow and widower of U.S. citizens and alien spouses divorced from their U.S. citi-

zen spouses to support and let their voices be heard.

The groups are also calling on local and U.S. citizens to support the letter writing campaign.

On Sunday, from 7am to afternoon, the two groups will be at the Kilili Beach pavilion where volunteers will assist people in translating letters and accept letters ready to be sent to federal agencies such as the U.S. De-

partment of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. House and Senate Resources Committees.

Rene Reyes, one of the organizers for the Sunday event, may be reached at 285-1820.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement CNMI, may also be reached at 285-3306.

## Private memorial service today for late chief justice Taylor

The CNMI Judiciary will be hosting a memorial service in honor of the late Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor tomorrow, March 5, at 10am in the Supreme courtroom and atrium of the Guma' Hustisia.

The memorial service is a private ceremony. The Guma' Hustisia will be closed to the public from 7:30am to 1pm, and court proceedings will resume at 1:30pm.

Taylor was born on Oct. 2, 1937, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He was married to Celina Deleon Guerrero Diaz and the couple is blessed with seven children and five grandchildren.

Taylor served as Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court from 1995 to 1998. Prior to his appointment to the High Court, Taylor served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court

from 1989 to 1995. From 1982 to 1989, he served as Deputy Public Defender, and served as acting Public Defender in 1979. He also served as legal counsel for the Civil Service Commission from 1979 to 1980, as Secretary of the Board of Parole from 1978 to 1982, and as a staff attorney for the Micronesian Claims Commission from 1974 to 1976.

Taylor was appointed to the Commonwealth Supreme Court by former governor Froilan C. Tenorio and took office on Sept. 22, 1995. He also served as a designated judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, a judge pro tem of the Superior Court of Guam, president of the Pacific Judicial Council, chairman of the Commonwealth Criminal Justice Planning Agency Supervisory Council, and chairman of



The late Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor.

the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission. Taylor retired from his distinguished service as Chief Justice on Dec. 5, 1998, and was honored by a resolution of the 11th Commonwealth Legislature upon his retirement.

Taylor began his legal career as a deputy district attorney in

San Mateo County, California from 1968 to 1972. Afterwards, he worked in private practice in San Mateo County, from 1972 to 1974. During this time, he also served as a private defender in San Mateo County, and was a municipal judge pro tem for the Southern Judicial District in Redwood City, California in 1973. In addition, he served as an instructor at the College of San Mateo, San Mateo Law School, and the Police Officer's Standards and Training School in San Mateo County from 1970 to 1973.

Taylor was admitted to the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, the United States District Court for the

Northern Mariana Islands, the State of California, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Trial Court.

Taylor studied at Oakland City College, Oakland, California, from 1955-1957, and received his bachelor's degree in Business and Industrial Management from California State University at San Jose in 1961. He was a certified college instructor in Law, Business and Economics in the State of California, and earned his juris doctor from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1967.

During his tenure on the bench, Taylor attended numerous events at educational institutions, including Wadham College, Oxford University, Oxford, England in 1994, the National

Judicial College, University of Nevada at Reno in 1990-1993, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges/State Justice Institute, University of Nevada at Reno in 1990-1993, and the American Academy of Judicial Education, Orlando, Florida in 1992.

Altogether, Taylor dedicated 23 years of his life to serving the people of the Commonwealth. He had an extraordinary professional life and career, but was just as proud of his personal life. Taylor considered the Commonwealth his home. A dedicated family man, he often said that nothing pleased him more than spending time with his loved ones. He had a wonderful sense of humor, a positive outlook on life, and everyone he met was guaranteed to leave his presence with a smile on their face. (PR)



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

#### SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERATOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for renovations and improvements to the generator building at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to replacement of doors and door frames, facility hardware, louver motors, air-conditioning units, renovations to living quarters and roof repairs.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE  
Executive Director/Contracting Officer  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO  
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 24, 2009



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GENERATOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-09

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services of the Saipan International Airport's Backup Generator System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services and operation of its two (2) 1.8 megawatt Caterpillar generators and ASCO controls at the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Generator Preventive Maintenance and Operation Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.  
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 3, 2009



# NMC staff certified as professional horticulturist

Dr. Dilip Nandwani of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension & Education Services' was recently recognized as a Certified Professional Horticulturist by the American Society of Horticultural Sciences, of which Nandwani has been a member since 2008.

Nandwani, who has been a plant pathologist and program leader for crop improvement at CREES since 2006, has led various projects and published his research in reputed international journals, such as the Journal of Environment Management and Restoration, Acta Horticulturae, and the Journal of Applied Biosciences.

His projects include the introduction of an eco-friendly plant pesticide and improved varieties of banana, taro, sweet potato, and mango. He has also conducted experiments on various tissue cultures for substantial crop propagation.

The ASHS, which was founded in 1903, is composed of scientists dedicated to the advancement of horticultural research, education, and application. Its Certified Horticulturist Programs is a peer-reviewed system that evaluates a candidates knowledge of landscape design and maintenance; production of fruits, vegetables, turf, and ornamental plants; shipping and handling of final product; propagation; monitoring and testing; diagnosing and managing plant problems and business practices.

"I am greatly honored to have gained acceptance into the ASHS," said Nandwani. "This certification allows me to professionally grow through access to further education and training from fellow CPHs and other ASHS members."

"His achievements bring great honor and prestige to the College community," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez of Dr. Nandwani "His certification will surely enhance CREES' efforts in assisting the community with their agricultural concerns." (NMC)



Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension & Education Services' Plant Pathologist Dr. Dilip Nandwani studies a mushroom sample at the College's As Terlaje Campus. Nandwani was recently certified as a Professional Horticulturist by the American Society of Horticultural Sciences.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 4, 1999

### CNMI must mitigate bad publicity with PR: Wiseman

An official of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday urged members to decide infavor of a request to join a non-profit organization recently established to pursue the immediate hiring of a public relations firm that will defend the CNMI amid relentless attacks abroad which may bring irreparable damage to its image in the international community. Emphasizing the urgency of engaging the services of a PR firm, David Wiseman, chairman of the government relations committee, said this will counter the bad publicity brought about by the filing of a \$1 billion lawsuit in California and Saipan. Garment factory workers who filed the case against manufacturers and buyers alleged rampant labor abuses here which led to the negative media publicity describing the CNMI as a slave island.

### Hearing set on FAS migration bill

A public hearing will be held on a proposed legislation seeking to change the open migration policy on citizens of the Freely Associated States entering the CNMI which is viewed as an attempt to deal with growing strain on public funds and infrastructure. The town meeting comes on the heels of mounting support for the proposal from government agencies that have expressed concern on the impact of unrestrained entry of FAS citizens on the limited resources of the island. Rep. Melvin Faisao, sponsor of the bill pending before the House of Representatives, said the hearing is necessary to gather inputs from the people on potential implication of the proposal on existing laws as well as CNMI relations with other Micronesian islands.

March 4, 2002

### Benavente named to '902' talks

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has appointed Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente to represent the Commonwealth in the upcoming "Section 902" discussions with the federal government. In a letter to U.S. President George W. Bush dated February 26, Babauta also urged Bush to appoint his own representative who will speak for the President during the negotiations. It would seem, however, that Babauta was actually referring to Section 702 of the Covenant and not Section 902. In his letter, Babauta referred to Section 902 of the Covenant but on another part of the letter, he made reference to the continuation of the multi-year financial assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands.

### A refreshing approach to the portrayal of Christian values

An experimental partnership between the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club and the Seventh Day Adventist Real Christian Theater gave life to a simple but stirring production depicting Christian values in the backdrop of contemporary times. Dubbed as "Point of Impact," the joint production staged at the Kagman Community Center over the weekend portrayed spiritual lessons that audiences were able to relate to. The four-act play written and directed by Sean Maycock and Galvin Deleon Guerrero sent audiences laughing and more importantly, reflecting on the unforgettable lessons interpreted by the actors on stage.

March 4, 2003

### MPLA board drops lawsuit vs Atalig

The Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors has decided to drop a land-grabbing lawsuit it filed against former judge and now board member Pedro Atalig. Government authorities said yesterday that the board has met and decided to withdraw the case, which was filed against Atalig prior to his appointment to the board. Atalig was appointed to the MPLA board during the previous administration despite the pending lawsuit. The current board's decision came even as the trial on the case is scheduled to begin in August this year.

### Dodd wants to be free

After spending almost two years in jail, Michael James Dodd—the former Oleai Elementary School teacher who was convicted last year of sexual child abuse charges—wants to be free. Dodd is initiating a new legal maneuver, this time by withdrawing his appeal from the CNMI Supreme Court and signifying his intention to secure a writ of habeas corpus. Petitioning for the writ is a procedure to get the court's opinion on the legality of one's incarceration. In federal law, the writ tests whether a conviction complies with the Constitutional mandate of due process. "The appellant's relief relies in the fact that his confession, which led to his guilty plea, was obtained in violation of his due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which applies the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and [a provision of] the CNMI Constitution," said Reynaldo O. Yana, Dodd's new counsel.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB09-DPS-058**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE  
MOTORCYCLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
SAFETY, POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - SAIPAN"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB09-DPS-059**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE  
MOTORCYCLES / 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION -  
TINIAN & 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - ROTA"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147  
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
March 3, 2009

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

**AGENDA**

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**III. REPORTS**

1. Financial Report-CDA
2. Legal Counsel's Report

**IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES**

1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. SBDC/Business Incubator
2. Credit Union
3. Economic Restoration Summit

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Agricultural Summit
2. Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) Membership

**VII. OTHER MATTERS**

1. Update on CDA Presentation to the Legislature
2. Senate Bill 16-50

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

3. Adoption of Minutes

3. Rota Office

3. Saipan Laulau Development, Inc.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-4 1, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO L. ITIBUS**  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

**United States  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Bldg. 1312 Capitol Hill P.O. Box 502565  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-7000 Fax: (670) 664-7030  
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org Website: www.cnmicdd.org

**Call for Special Meeting**

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on March 6, 2009 at 3:00pm at DD Council. The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

**I. Roll Call**

**II. Quorum**

**III. Executive Director Report**

**IV. Executive Director Position**

**V. Family 360**

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson



# CMS to pay EPA over \$33,000 for used oil issues

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reached a \$33,618 settlement with Construction and Material Supply, Inc. for alleged used oil management violations at its facility in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

"I am concerned that the EPA has uncovered a number of used oil violations on Saipan," said Jeff Scott, director of the Waste Programs for the EPA Pacific Southwest Region. "Corroded and leaking containers lead to used oil spills that can contaminate soil and poison ocean eco-

systems. EPA will continue to take vigorous enforcement actions against facilities that mismanage waste and threaten our environment."

Inspectors from the EPA and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality discovered the used oil issues during a routine inspection and found the company generates and stores used oil in connection with its maintenance activities. The company allegedly failed to:

- Store used oil in proper containers to prevent spills;

- Properly mark or label containers of used oil;

- Respond to a release of used oil;

- Have a certified spill response plan; and

- Store used oil in compliance with spill prevention rules.

The company is a construction supply company engaged in quarry operations, concrete production, and general construction. It also owns a hardware store and provides equipment rental, repair and maintenance services and has since corrected the issues

found in the inspection.

The EPA's used oil and used battery rules require facilities to properly store wastes, and label and manage waste containers. Facilities must also take care to properly train employees to manage waste and to manage their used oil, as improperly stored used oil can potentially spill and pose a risk to workers

and the environment.

Companies must label all containers and tanks as use oil and the containers and tanks must be in good condition. The tanks and containers should not be allowed to rust, leak, or deteriorate, and any defects must be fixed immediately. Companies should never store used oil in anything other than

tanks and storage containers in good condition.

For information about EPA's used oil requirements, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/usedoil/usedoil.htm>

For more info on CNMI DEQ's used oil program, please visit: <http://www.deq.gov.mp>. (PR)

## Tinian Mayor's Office, NMC-CREES staff attend abalone training in Iloilo

Tinian Mayor's Office and NMC-CREES staff recently attended the specialized training on Abalone (*H. asinine*) Nursery and Grow-out Culture and Seaweed (*Gracilaria*) Farming at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Aquaculture Department in central Philippines.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Mayor's Office staff, together with NMC-CREES traveled to Tigbauan, Iloilo, in central Philippines to attend the specialized training on Abalone (*H. asinine*) Nursery and Grow-out Culture and Seaweed (*Gracilaria*) Farming.

Participants from Tinian were Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, Thomas A. Fleming, John T. King, Thomas B. Mendiola, Michael H. Lizama and Richard S. Lazaro. Director Ross Manglona and Michael Ogo from NMC CREES were also present at the training, which was held from Feb. 14 to 24, 2009.

The weeklong abalone train-

ing took place at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Department in Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines. Specialized doctors from different fields of aquaculture trained the CNMI participants in the following fields:

- Hatchery, nursery, and grow-out culture of the tropical abalone;

- Seaweed Farming;

- Hatchery operation: egg collection, counting, incubation, monitoring of larval development;

- Harvest, counting of veliger larvae for stocking;

- Post larval rearing, Preparation of diatom slurry and feeding;

- Financial Feasibility and market potential;

- Sorting and packing of abalone juveniles for transport;

- Stocking and feeding of juveniles in cages;

- Sampling of abalone in grow-out cages; and

- Monitoring and feeding of abalone in cages.

The workshop was composed of both lectures and hands on training. The trainees from Tinian experienced the actual process of raising abalone from the larvae stage to harvest. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council

PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536  
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: [voc.rehab@saipan.com](mailto:voc.rehab@saipan.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 09 2nd General Membership on Friday March 6, 2009 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Welcome and recognition of new appointed members
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY09 1st Meeting Minutes (12/19/08)
- V. Reports
  - a. OVR Director
  - b. SRC Chair
- VI. Old Business
  - a. FY 2010 State Plan Updates and Schedule of Public Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
  - b. Appointments/re-appointments of Committee Chairpersons
  - c. SRC On-Line Training Modules
  - d. Pending Vacancy Appointments
- VII. New Business
  - a. Review and Adoption of Policies for VR services
  - b. OVR/IL Share of Stimulus Package: Recovery Guidelines/Requirements & Accountability of the DSU/Stakeholders
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

## SHIPPING SCHEDULE



**MARIANA**  
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
STADT HAMBURG	030E	2/21 Sat	2/19 Thu	2/19 Thu	2/17 Tue	2/14 Sat	2/27 Fri	2/23 Mon	2/22 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/23 Mon	2/27 Fri	3/1 Sun	3/3 Tue
MELL SENOKO	018E	2/28 Sat	2/26 Thu	2/26 Thu	2/24 Tue	2/21 Sat	3/6 Fri	3/2 Mon	3/1 Sun	2/22 Sun	2/22 Sun	3/2 Mon	3/6 Fri	3/8 Sun	3/10 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	017E	3/7 Sat	3/5 Thu	3/5 Thu	3/3 Tue	2/28 Sat	3/13 Fri	3/9 Mon	3/8 Sun	3/1 Sun	3/1 Sun	3/9 Mon	3/13 Fri	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	030E	3/14 Sat	3/12 Thu	3/12 Thu	3/10 Tue	3/7 Sat	3/20 Fri	3/16 Mon	3/15 Sun	3/8 Sun	3/8 Sun	3/16 Mon	3/20 Fri	3/22 Sun	3/24 Tue
MELL SENOKO	019E	3/21 Sat	3/19 Thu	3/19 Thu	3/17 Tue	3/14 Sat	3/27 Fri	3/23 Mon	3/22 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/23 Mon	3/27 Fri	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	018E	3/28 Sat	3/26 Thu	3/26 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/21 Sat	4/3 Fri	3/30 Mon	3/29 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/22 Sun	3/30 Mon	4/3 Fri	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	030E	3/7 Sat	3/8 Sun	3/8 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Thu	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/20 Fri	3/21 Sat	3/26 Thu	4/14 Tue	3/25 Wed
MELL SENOKO	018E	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/19 Thu	3/21 Sat	3/22 Sun	3/24 Tue	3/27 Fri	3/28 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/1 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	017E	3/21 Sat	3/22 Sun	3/22 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Thu	3/28 Sat	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue	4/3 Fri	4/4 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/28 Tue	4/8 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	030E	3/28 Sat	3/29 Sun	3/29 Sun	3/31 Tue	4/2 Thu	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/7 Tue	4/10 Fri	4/11 Sat	4/16 Thu	5/5 Tue	4/15 Wed
MELL SENOKO	019E	4/4 Sat	4/5 Sun	4/5 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Thu	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/17 Fri	4/18 Sat	4/23 Thu	5/12 Tue	4/22 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	018E	4/11 Sat	4/12 Sun	4/12 Sun	4/14 Tue	4/16 Thu	4/18 Sat	4/19 Sun	4/21 Tue	4/24 Fri	4/25 Sat	4/30 Thu	5/19 Tue	4/29 Wed

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## A wall built with visas

**T**he economic stimulus package signed into law last week by President Obama contains a provision antithetical to innovation and domestic prosperity. That provision makes it even harder—some say impossible—for companies that receive government bailout money to hire foreign employees for specialized work.

The chief sponsors of the initiative, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, and Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., say that they are concerned about the plight of laid-off Americans. And they are rightly critical of companies that abuse the H1-B visa—meant for highly skilled foreign workers in specialized fields—to hire low-skilled workers who accept a fraction of the pay commanded by Americans. Those employers should be and are being held legally accountable; last month, executives of a company in Mr. Grassley's home state were indicted in connection with fraudulent H1-B applications.

But erecting even more hurdles to the already rigorous H1-B hiring process could backfire in more ways than one. Even before the Grassley-Sanders proposal, companies had to make a case that a would-be foreign hire had unique skills or expertise that made him the best candidate for the job. The stimulus provision would add to the hoops companies have to jump through. For example, a company that accepted bailout dollars would be prohibited from hiring a foreign worker within 90 days of a layoff—even if the foreign worker is not a candidate for a vacancy created by that layoff. The company would have to certify that it made a “good faith” effort to hire an American for the position and that it considered training a U.S. worker to fill the spot. The new requirements would expire in two years.

Shutting out top talent from overseas will do nothing to help the U.S. economy or American workers. Making it harder for U.S. companies to hire the best and brightest when they are most in need of cutting-edge technology and true innovation is nonsensical. Such a move would discourage bright foreign students from elite universities from even seeking jobs here; that is a loss to the students, their prospective employers and to the country. Companies who see their opportunities to hire such students evaporate may outsource even more jobs, especially those that can be done on a virtual or consulting basis.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



## Perhaps one day you'll write your story

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

Time once again to take a little poetic inspirational break to set some goals for the future.

*Perhaps one day you'll tell your story  
as they gather at your feet  
The one that you were born to tell  
with encore and repeat*

*It will start like every other:  
"...frail and helpless with eyes closed  
With potential and a purpose  
that in time would be exposed*

*Shaped and guided by the lessons  
given all life's rules and tools  
Tested by the many choices  
offered in life's many schools*

*Joining in the quest for happiness  
all on earth are bound to make  
Finding meaning in the moments  
and the good in each mistake*

*Facing fears, and trouncing failure  
while defining you anew  
Choosing new ways of perceiving  
things you thought you really knew*

*And in time proudly emerging  
safe, serene and satisfied  
With a fruitful life constructed  
honoring what lives inside*

*A timeless saga of your triumph  
over obstacles through pain  
Smiling broadly as you tell it  
for you'd do it all again!"*

*Make your life a tale worth hearing  
grasp and wield the author's pen  
Live each day to tell your story  
For if you live not now....then when?*

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic  
success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).



The story people will eventually tell about you is one you have the power to write and tell about yourself. If you don't like the way the story of your life is unfolding, take heart. You can start a new chapter today. Sit down and begin to compose the story you want to be able to tell the world a year from now. Write it as if it were a magazine article chronicling your rise to prominence, fame, fortune, family, peace of mind, or whatever your definition of success. Tell it as if you were *Time Magazine's* Person of the Year of three to five years from now, and curious minds are eagerly reading to learn more about you and how you did it. Start with the end in mind and chronicle all the rises and falls, the desperation and the darkness and your eventual emergence. You'd be surprised the amazing power a simple exercise like that will have in actually creating the future you desire in life!

*Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!*

### Visa waiver comments

Do you have a concern about the pending visa waiver law? Make your voice heard! Please note that public comments must be submitted by March 17, 2009. You must reference Docket #: USCBP-2009-0001 in your letters. Send letters to:

Border Security Regulations  
Branch, Office of International Trade,  
Customs and Border Protection, Mint Annex,  
799 9th Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20001.

Also, submit your comments and concerns online at [www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov), [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), and [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov). The more the better.

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## CPAC?

**N**ever heard of it! Well, I never heard of it; until today, that is. Conservative Political Action Committee, CPAC: so what is that? Well, evidently it is the great hope of the hopelessly hopeful conservative movement on mainland United States. I would have to guess that for anyone who watched any of the CPAC conference on TV today, or anyone who happened to see the extended news accounts of it played all day on Fox; it had to have seemed kinda peculiar. I mean their keynote speaker, their main guy, was Rush Limbaugh, i.e., conservative “shock” radio—he lost his TV show years ago, but apparently not his ties, but that’s another story.

President Obama hasn’t been in office long enough for the coffee to finish brewing in the oval office and already groups like CPAC are beginning to put together what might very nearly be described as a hate campaign against him. Certainly Mr. Limbaugh is on the verge of such. So why is that?

Well, evidently one reason is that the far right is unhappy with the tax proposals of the new administration. It seems that Mr. Obama’s advisors and bill writers are targeting folks who make more than \$250,000 annually. The word is that whatever the actual proposed tax rate is, that it will mirror what it was when Bill Clinton was in

office. I have to admit, I have no idea what that rate is, nor have I ever felt the need to find out since I have never even so much as approached the \$250K earnings level. And I know very few people who have. And none of the few I do know about are related to me. I guess most of those who do make that kind of money are members of CPAC.

Watching pieces of it on Fox today, I noted that commentator Julie Banderas—no relation to Antonio—posed the question to viewers: “Is President Obama’s tax plan the first salvos in a new class war, i.e., the poor against the rich; or, is it a plan whose implementation is long overdue?” FOX ran a poll on the question; don’t know what the outcome was.

The point is that the class war was begun a long time ago. The chief warriors in it on the side of the \$250Kers are the lobbyists who wine and dine and worse congressmen to do their bidding: big oil, big pharmaceuticals, big banks, even big foreign investors. The losers? Those who have seen their jobs head overseas or south of the border: “Can’t find reliable workers for a dollar a day? Yes, you can, in Yucatan.” This last was an actual ad run in, I believe, *The Economist* in late 1993; I forget the exact month. So, who’s doing battle on the side of the poor people? Well, we don’t really know. It

By **STEPHEN B. SMITH**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.*



may be that their “ain’t” nobody!

Personally, I don’t feel the need to align myself with either the far left or the far right. On some issues I would label myself a liberal: I do think we need universal health care. On still other issues I see myself as a conservative: for me less government is better government. I don’t have any illusions as to the intelligence, knowledge level, or integrity of people in the political sphere. Having lived this long I have become wise enough to align myself with neither the Republican nor the Democratic Party. Indeed, I am now a card carrying member of the Cynical Party and a charter member of their Suspicious Caucus.

## 5 myths about all those nukes out there

**L**ast week’s news that North Korea plans to test a ballistic missile that could reach Alaska gave doomsayers more grounds for gloom. But amid the fear about nuclear attacks by terrorists or leaders such as Kim Jong Il, let’s not forget that the United States has managed to protect itself from such a catastrophe not only since 9/11, but since the birth of the bomb in 1945. That record could end tomorrow, and we have a lot of work to do to stay safe. But fear-mongering—such as Dick Cheney’s warning last month about the “high probability” of terrorists attempting a nuclear or biological attack—can lead to costly mistakes. We don’t need to scare ourselves silly to guard against the worst.

### The threat of a nuclear attack is high and growing.

We’ve actually survived much more harrowing times. In 1962 there was the Cuban missile crisis, the worst two weeks of the Cold War. And how about the decade-long free fall that followed the break-up of the Soviet Union? During its final days, the U.S.S.R. possessed 30,000 nuclear warheads and enough highly enriched uranium and plutonium for about 64,000 more. Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev were jockeying for control over nuclear launch codes, and many experts worried that the military chain of command would splinter. Then, after the Soviet Union fell apart, thousands of weapons suddenly belonged to fragile states such as Ukraine and Kazakhstan. American officials wisely brokered the return of the nuclear weapons to Russia, where they were locked down. Stranded Soviet missiles and bombers were also returned for dismantling.

### Sooner or later, a mushroom cloud will burst over an American city.

Fortunately, the darkest nuclear nightmares are also the least likely to occur. During the Cold War, many Americans lived in fear of a bolt-out-of-the-blue Soviet missile attack; today our anxieties center on nuclear terrorism. Yet since 9/11, not a single person has died in an act of nuclear terrorism, while 57,000 have been killed and 99,000 injured in a total of 36,000 terrorist attacks involving explosives, firearms and grenades.

### Rogue middlemen such as A.Q. Khan are the villains of nuclear proliferation.

Recently freed after five years under house arrest, this Pakistani scientist deserves a special place in the proliferation hall of shame for selling nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran and Libya. But governments, intentionally or otherwise, have done far greater damage. China helped Pakistan build an atomic bomb. India’s nuclear program received an early boost from President Eisenhower’s “Atoms for Peace” program and from the Canadian government, which provided a research reactor. In the 1970s, Israel and South Africa helped each other develop their nuclear capabilities. North Korea’s bomb program began with a Soviet reactor. And those are just a few examples.

### Now that Iran and North Korea have nuclear weapons programs, many of their neighbors will pursue the bomb as well.

Such worst-case proliferation scenarios haven’t happened in the past and are unlikely to roll out in the future. During the Cold War, the two superpowers curbed the spread of nuclear weapons technology by extending defensive “umbrellas” over their allies. Over time, the rules of nuclear commerce were tightened, and the Non-

By **MICHAEL KREPON**

*Special to The Washington Post*

*Michael Krepon is a co-founder of the Henry L. Stimson Center, a visiting lecturer at the University of Virginia and author of Better Safe than Sorry: The Ironies of Living with the Bomb.*



Proliferation Treaty became almost universally accepted. Most of the countries threatened today by Iran and North Korea are friends of the United States, which can use diplomacy, containment, deterrence and, as a last resort, conventional military capabilities against Iranian nuclear facilities.

There is one nuclear cascade under way—but not in the regions surrounding Iran and North Korea. Stockpiles are growing fastest in China, India and Pakistan. All three countries are flight-testing new ballistic and cruise missiles. Pakistan is building not one, but two additional plutonium production reactors to compete with India.

### The threat of ballistic missile attacks on the United States is growing.

Wrong again. While the threat of short- and medium-range missile attacks on our allies and forward-deployed troops is growing, the danger of transoceanic missile attacks on U.S. soil has decreased markedly. Last year, with U.S. assistance, Russia dismantled 82 ocean-spanning missiles, bringing the total number of missiles sent to scrap heaps since 1992 to 1,377. China is now estimated to have fewer than 30 ocean-spanning missiles (though this number will rise). Overall, the long-range missile threat to the United States has decreased by two-thirds over the past two decades, thanks to treaties negotiated by Yeltsin and George H.W. Bush.

Still, there are far too many missiles in U.S. and Russian arsenals on hair-trigger alert. There’s also the problem of North Korea’s upcoming launch. If it succeeds—unlike the last test in 2006, which ended two minutes into flight—then the doomsayers will have something more to worry about.

## Letter to the Editor

### Street and road signs

The Legislature has decided to reprogram the remaining balance from the Saipan Mayor’s Office, which oversees the street naming throughout the island of Saipan. Now we’re back to the beginning, so that when we give direction to any particular place on the island, it goes like this: “Yes, pass Family Market and on the third road to your left going south, you will see a big boat parked by the road, make a left turn and count until the fifth house on the right and that’s where the families are at.” Funny, isn’t it? I thought so.

But when you see an ambulance passing in front of your house with their emergency red light flashing, both driver and passenger looking in all directions wondering where the heck is the house they need to get to, to provide medical assistance, I tell myself, “I just

hope that the person who needs the help is going to be okay.”

All this is due to street signs being run down by drunk drivers (their car insurance company should pay), vandalism, uneducated fools with nothing to do but destroy public property. May I suggest a solution please: Restore funding to the Saipan Mayor’s Office so they can replace/repair missing or damaged signs; the Legislature should enact stiffer fines against those who violate and have no respect for the CNMI law; and a strong enforcement by our CNMI community and the Department of Public Safety. Please let’s all live responsibly.

**Joseph M. Palacios**  
*Dandan, Saipan*

## Show us the money!

“We stand to lose \$300 million from the Chinese and Russian market,” says Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Perry Tenorio, and Dave Sablan. Where is this \$300 million that all you say we stand to lose? Please show us the money for our government is in deep financial chaos. The Retirement Fund can use \$100 million of the \$300-\$350 million you people have stashed away somewhere so our people can enjoy their retirement. CUC need new engines, so we could return those Aggreko generators. CHC needs good doctors and \$3 million to move the old Dialysis Center to the New Dialysis Building. NMC needs \$10 million for FYI 2010. PSS needs new classrooms. DPL needs funding for land compensation DHS needs \$ 96 million. Please loan them the money if you are seriously worried. DEA needs more help and local funding to combat the drug problems.






**Gregorio Cruz Jr.**  
*Taotao Tano*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

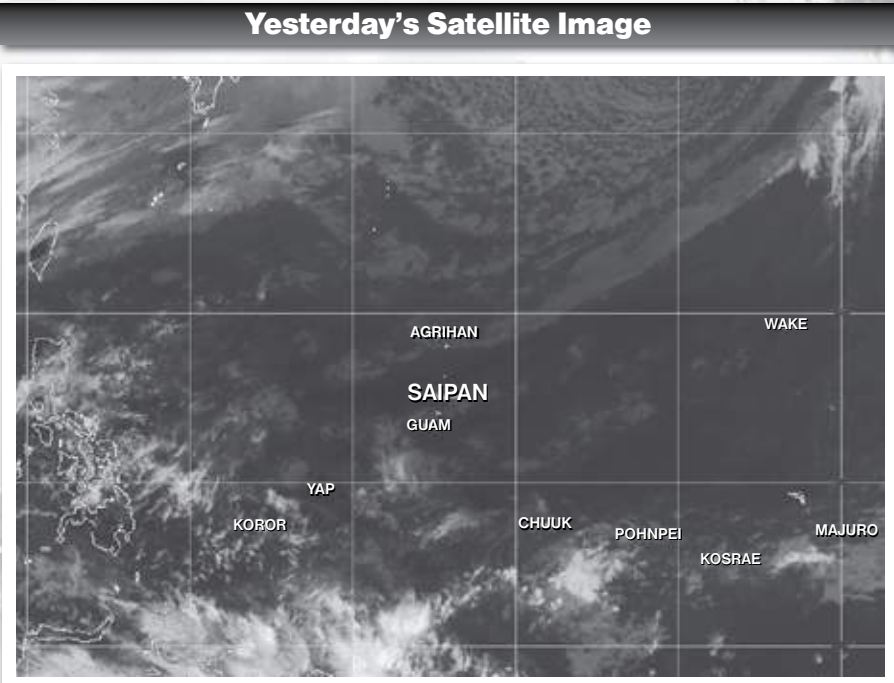
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼73
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲82 ▼77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲73 ▼61
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲39 ▼32
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲79 ▼73
Honolulu	Showers	▲75 ▼67
London	Rain/Snow	▲41 ▼32
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼50
Manila	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲64 ▼51
Miami	Sunny	▲72 ▼59
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲31 ▼24
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲47 ▼37
Paris	Rain	▲41 ▼30
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲56 ▼42
Rome	Rain	▲62 ▼49
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼37
San Francisco	Rain	▲58 ▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲50 ▼34
Tokyo	Showers	▲54 ▼45
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲39 ▼29

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
1:44 AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:19 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:42 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:43 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Palau or south of a line extending eastward from 3N130E to 3N145E. An upper-level trough stretches from 8N148E to 8N170E to 10N174E to 20N180. The combination of upper-level divergence south of the trough and trade-wind convergence at the surface is causing scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 2N and 6N from 150E to 157E and over the Marshall Islands including Majuro between 3N and 8N from 166E to 174E. A shear line extends from 25N162E to 18N150E to near Pagan at 18N145E to 16N138E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found up to 90 miles northwest of the shear line.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:32 AM	6:25 PM	Today	11:30 AM	12:02 AM
Thursday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM	Thursday	12:31 PM	1:05 AM
Friday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Friday	1:35 PM	2:06 AM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Saturday	2:35 PM	3:04 AM
Sunday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM	Sunday	3:42 PM	3:57 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.
- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan  
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  - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
  - For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>			<b>Rota-Saipan</b>		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am 4:00am	5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Saipan</b>		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am 4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am	Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am 11:10am	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Saipan</b>		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:40pm	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm 1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:10am+1	Daily
<b>Guam-Narita</b>			<b>Narita-Guam</b>		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am 2:20pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am 3:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Saipan</b>		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm 2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 084	10:40am 3:05pm	Daily
<b>Guam-Osaka</b>			<b>Osaka-Guam</b>		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am 3:00pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:20am+1	Daily
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b>			<b>Nagoya-Guam</b>		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am 2:30pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b>			<b>Incheon-Saipan</b>		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:20pm	Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:00am+1	7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm 2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b>			<b>Busan-Saipan</b>		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm 2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b>			<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b>		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm 1:50am+1	1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b>			<b>Guam-Rota</b>		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am 3:00am	5,6
<b>Guam-Palau</b>			<b>Palau-Guam</b>		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am 5:25am	1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am 5:30am	4,6
<b>Palau-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Palau</b>		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm 1:50am+1	3,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Guam</b>		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm 4:40am+1	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm 4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Nagoya</b>		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am 11:05am	Daily
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b>			<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b>		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am 4:50am	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am 5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm 5:45pm	Daily
<b>Narita-Manila</b>			<b>Manila-Narita</b>		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am 12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Mobil donates \$2K to FMI for cleanup project

The Friends of the Mariana Islands has again been awarded an Environmental Restoration Cleanup Project funded by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. This time, the group will use the funds to clean up the Lau Lau Road from the Lau Lau Bay up to Isa Drive.

The \$2,000 Mobil donation will be used by the Friends of the Mariana Islands for the supplies needed by the FMI volunteers.

"The volunteers sincerely appreciate the support of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. in this undertaking. Without the support from Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the cleanup project would not be possible," said Marites Aquino Castillo, FMI president and chairwoman. "The Friends of the Mariana Islands hopes for continued support from Mobil in future projects."

The Friends of the Mariana Islands also acknowledged the years of support of Cecile Bamba Suda, former manager for Public Relations & Government Affairs at Mobil, who has already retired, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FMI president and board chair Marites Aquino Castillo accepts the Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. 2009 Environment Grant of \$2,000 from Lucas Salii, territory manager of Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. The funds will be used for drainage clearing and cleanup of the Lau Lau Road from Lau Lau Bay to the Cross Island Road. Also accepting the grant are FMI board of directors members Camilo Laoeng, William P. Matson, Jun Flores, Melecia P. Marquez, and the youngest FMI member, Betty Matson.

her "replacement," Jonathan Law, public affairs manager based in

Singapore, as well as Kamal Singh, country manager, and Catherine

Leon Guerrero, administrative assistant, both based in Guam. (PR)

## Nikkei Woman to entice career women to Northern Marianas

*Nikkei Woman*, a full-color lifestyle magazine targeting career women in Japan, ventured far and wide on their recent familiarization tour in the Northern Mariana Islands to introduce the islands as a suitable travel destination for their readership.

The magazine's four-member editorial and shooting team departed Saipan last Monday after arriving Feb. 26 to gather information for a three-page article expected to run in the publication's April 2009 edition. *Nikkei Woman* reaches about 120,000 readers monthly, primarily women in their 20s and 30s.

While in the Northern Marianas, the FAM tour captured the relaxation of I Sagua (indigenous Chamorro for medicine) Spa at Hyatt Regency Saipan and Mandi Asian Spa at Mariana Resort. Tropical beach and water activities were highlighted as the team visited snorkel-

ing paradise Managaha Island, Paupau Beach, Wing Beach, popular dive spot Grotto, and Saipan World Resort Wave Jungle Water Park.

Golf options in the Northern Marianas also received attention, with Coral Ocean Point golf course and Saipan Country Club. Other stops included Joteten Susupe Shopping Center, Susupe Lake, the island's summit Mt. Tapochao, Bird Island lookout, and a cultural dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

*Nikkei Woman* staff also paused in their busy schedule to capture the beauty of the heavens above the islands, shooting sunrise over the Philippine Sea from Forbidden Island lookout on the east coast of the island, sunset over the Pacific Ocean on the western coast of the island, and twinkling stars in a nighttime sky virtually unpolluted by city lights.

"We're very pleased that *Nikkei Woman* invested four full days researching in the Northern Marianas," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "With the assistance of our staff and support of our MVA members, we hope they found plenty of reasons during their stay to develop a rich and enticing article for their readers."

MVA facilitated location shooting and ground transportation for the FAM tour group. In addition, Fiesta Resort & Spa provided accommodations, and Tasi Tours provided Managaha tour and marine activities.

*Nikkei Woman* focuses on subjects such as career, fitness, food, travel and love. The ad value of the anticipated feature article is \$46,666.

Saipan's neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota offer additional historic and natural attractions.

Tinian also offers world-class gaming at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and Rota highlights eco-tourism and cultural-tourism opportunities.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of low coral and volcanic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and fantastic vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure, and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical stopover when traveling between Asia and North America, and adventurous travelers looking for new travel discoveries. The Mariana Islands, three hours travel from most cities in Japan, are served from Japan by Northwest Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines provides daily direct flights from Seoul and four times a week from Busan. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). (PR)

## Youth prepare for Youth For Youth Conference

**HAGATNA, Guam**—The Prevention and Training Branch of the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse continues to partner with Youth For Youth LIVE! Guam to plan and conduct the annual Youth for Youth Conference.

The 19th annual conference will be held from April 25 to 27 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This year's theme "Think!" invites conferees to generate discussions around issues and problems that affect our youth today, as well as provide problem-solving strategies.

The goals of the conference are to use the powerful influence and creativity among teens to promote positive peer pressure as oppose to negative, to strengthen young people's lead-

ership and goal setting skills, and to teach teens how to say "No" to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, violence and other forms of negative behavior.

Over 400 middle and high school students between the ages of 11-17 from Guam and the neighboring islands in Micronesia have begun to register for this 3-day conference.

Each day has a specific topic focus:

Saturday, April 25—Underage Drinking Prevention;

Sunday, April 26—Suicide Prevention;

Monday, April 27—Substance Abuse Prevention.

Youth participants will choose from over 20 workshop topics for smaller group break out sessions which will be facilitated

by trained youth.

"What's different about this year's conference, is that Youth for Youth Live! Guam has invited corporate businesses to partner as co-presenters with the youth on some of the topics. They will be able to offer professional tips on topics that are relevant to their businesses such as Health & Wellness Nutrition and Money Saving Tips," said Logan Reyes, adult chairperson of this year's conference.

Government agencies and corporate businesses who have committed to support this year's conference include Department of Youth Affairs, Department of Public Health & Social Services, Office Of Highway & Safety, Guam National Guard Counterdrug Program, Bank of Guam,

Government of Guam Employees Federal Credit Union, Subway, Foremost Foods Guam, Coca Cola Beverage Company, Pacific Daily News, KSTO/KISH, KIJJ, Sorenson Media Group, Graphic Center, Hollywood Theaters and TriVision Media Group.

A conference registration fee of \$75 per participant will help defray all conference costs, to include meals for all 3 days, conference t-shirt and bag and supplies. Registrations are available and can be downloaded at [www.peaceguam.org](http://www.peaceguam.org). Completed registrations can be faxed to (671) 477-9076 or submitted directly to the PEACE office in Hagatna. For more information, call (671) 477-9079 thru 9083. (PR)

## Beautify CNMI leads Garapan cleanup

On the first Sunday of every month, Beautify CNMI volunteers show up at the American Memorial Park parking lot at 8am for a cleanup of the Garapan tourist district. On a typical morning they will spend 90 minutes cleaning the area and will fill at least two pickup truck beds with garbage found on the streets.

The cleanup on March 1, 2009, marked the 30th consecutive month of volunteers combing the Garapan streets for litter. The volunteer participants this month were the staff from Paseo de Marianas Promoters, members of the Rotary Club of Saipan, and students from local high schools. Friends of the Mariana Islands transferred the trash to the transfer station in Lower Base.

When asked about the cleanup, Saipan Southern High School sophomore Jacquelyn Johanna David said all the litter she found lying on the ground made her "angry." She added, "I wish people would pick up after themselves and I wish the government would start issuing litter fines."

The Garapan cleanup is sponsored by Friends of the Mariana Islands and Paseo de Marianas Promoters, Inc. For more information or to volunteer, contact Angelo Villagomez at (670) 285 6462 or Marites Castillo at (670) 285 8980. The next Beautify CNMI cleanup will take place on Sunday, March 8, on Isa Drive. Volunteers will meet at the Java Joe's parking lot at 8am. (PR)

## Annual Baha'i Fast cleanses, challenges mind and body

From March 2 to 20, Baha'is of the Mariana Island will join Bah'is worldwide to rise before dawn to eat breakfast, pray, and then abstain from eating or drinking until sunset in observation of the annual 19-day fast.

Like Lent in Christianity and Ramadan in Islam, the Baha'i Fast is essentially a period of meditation and prayer when the individual (ages 15-70) reflects on his or her own spiritual progress and makes an effort to detach from material desires.

As one Baha'i stated, "During the fast, we make an effort to become more thoughtful about the purpose of our lives."

The faith exempts from fasting those who are ill, traveling, pregnant, nursing, menstruating, or engaged in heavy labor.

Abdu'l-Baha, the son and appointed successor of Baha'u'llah, prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith, wrote that "Fasting is the cause of awakening man. The heart becomes tender and the spirituality of man increases."

Abdu'l-Baha described how the Prophets of God—including Moses, Jesus, Muhammad,

and Baha'u'llah—all fasted. He said the Baha'i period of fasting allows believers to feel closer to the founders of the great religions by sharing this experience.

Guam resident Philippe Gerling says he and his fellow Baha'is look forward to this opportunity to draw closer to our creator.

"I think one of the greatest lessons of the fast for me over the years has been practicing self-restraint. It seems like an impossibility to not eat when you're so hungry, or drink when you're so thirsty, but you learn to practice self-restraint for a higher good. The absence of that single virtue—self-restraint—seems to be at the root of so much of the corruption in today's world. Self-discipline is a way of exercising mastery over that most unwieldy of creatures, the self."

The Bahá'í Faith, the second most widely spread religion in the world after Christianity, has more than five million members world wide and approximately 300 in the Mariana Islands. (PR)



### BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Birthday greetings go out to Chris Richard Villagomez Cepeda II, who is celebrating his sixth birthday today, March 4, 2008. We love and miss you very much, Jr.! Can't wait for you to come home. Many, many blessings!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Island Snapshots



## PARENTS' NIGHT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ramona Camacho, seated second from left, and Linda Stephanie, third from left, both from the Division of Youth Services, pose with parents of Garapan Headstart during the Parents' Night held Feb. 28, 2009, at the Garapan Center.



## DD AWARENESS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez poses for a group photo after signing the Developmental Disability Awareness Month and the Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month proclamations Friday last week at the Office of the Governor's conference room.



## VOLLEYBALL CHAMP

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the Marianas High School volleyball team pose for a victory picture after being declared the 2009 MISO Volleyball Champions on Feb. 28, 2009, at MHS Gym. The MHS girls won in their match with Kagman High School.



## CULTURAL WEEK

Sixth graders at San Antonio Elementary School take mwar making lessons from the elderly visiting the campus Monday last week to mark the first day of Cultural Week celebrations.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## STORYTELLING SESSION

Viola Leon-Guerrero, center, poses with parents of Garapan Headstarts students after conducting a Fatheread/Motheread first session on Feb. 26, 2009, at the Garapan Headstart Center. Parents who still want to participate may do so as the next session will be on March 12, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NMC RETIREES

The Northern Marianas College recently recognized two of its recent retirees, Dolores "Dee" Sablan, second from right, and Thomasa Coleman, second from left. With them in the photo are NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, far right, and NMC Chief Financial & Administrative Officer Roger Madriaga, far left. Sablan and Coleman, both of whom were employed at the Administrative Services Office, each have served the college for 13 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 12th birthday to Lynette Joyce Vasquez, who is celebrating her birthday today. "Stay sweet and lovely. May you have more birthdays to come." Love always, Mom, Dad and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our fabulous cousin Nicia Cabrera, from your favorite cousin, Charisma, and all of your family and friends. Hope you have a great birthday and nany more to come!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## SPECIAL GREETINGS

A special happy birthday greeting goes out to our mother and grandmother, Maria Nakatsukasa Aldan, who will be celebrating her 60th birthday on Friday, March 6, 2009. The birthday celebrant is shown here with some of her grandchildren, from left, Edinna, Elyssha, David John (DJ), and Patty Girl in front. "We thank God for the gift of life and for giving us more time to be with you. We love you dearly! From your children/spouses and grandchildren: Eleanor A./Melvin P. Cepeda (Elyssha, Edinna, Emelsha); Deveyanne A./Chris V. Cepeda (DJ, Patty, Chris Jr.); Velma Lynn A./James D. Magofna (Davina, Jamel); Genoveva C./Kevin Clark; and Joe Vince/Collete M. Taitano (John, Colleen, Joe Vince Jr.).

Birthday greetings go out to Joe Vince Taitano, who will be celebrating his 39th birthday on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Happy birthday and many, many blessings, brother. From: Mel, Ellen, and kids; Chris, Dee, and kids; James, Velm, and kids; Gen and Kevin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





# Business

## Madoff seeks to keep penthouse, \$62M assets

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Bernard Madoff is seeking to keep a \$7 million Manhattan penthouse and an additional \$62 million in assets, saying they are unrelated to the fraud that authorities say cost victims more than \$50 billion. In court papers filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Madoff and his lawyer claim the apartment, \$45 million in municipal bonds and \$17 million more in a separate account all belong to Madoff's wife, Ruth.

The bonds in an account held by Ruth Madoff at COHMAD Securities Corp. and about \$17 million held by her in a Wachovia Bank account "are unrelated to the alleged Madoff fraud and only Ruth Madoff has a beneficial interest in these assets," Bernard Madoff and lawyer Ira Sorkin said, according to the papers.

Sorkin declined to comment Monday.

A court-appointed trustee overseeing the liquidation of Madoff's assets has said the apartment and other property used to secure bail was off limits for now. But if there's a conviction, those assets and possibly property of Madoff "insiders" could be seized to help pay claims by alleged victims.

"We are looking at every member of the Madoff family," David Sheen, an attorney representing the trustee, said recently regarding the personal property.



AP  
In this Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009 file photo, Bernard L. Madoff, the accused mastermind of a \$50 billion Ponzi scheme, leaves Federal Court in New York.

The information was contained in an order of consent asking a judge to grant the federal government authority to seek forfeiture of assets involved in any fraud. It was filed in a case brought by the SEC against Madoff.

Trustee Irving H. Picard has

said that nearly \$950 million in cash and securities has been recovered for investors so far.

The 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman has been confined to the Manhattan apartment, purchased in 1984, under house arrest since early December.

## Trade nominee is 4th Obama pick to owe back taxes

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Another Obama administration nominee has tax troubles. This time, it's Ron Kirk, the president's choice to be U.S. trade representative. Kirk owes an estimated \$10,000 in back taxes from earlier in the decade and has agreed to pay them, the Senate Finance Committee said Monday.

The committee said the taxes arise from Kirk's handling of speaking fees he donated to a scholarship fund that he set up at his alma mater, and for his deduction of the full cost of season tickets to the Dallas Mavericks

professional basketball team.

Kirk also agreed to make changes in his accounting of charitable deductions, including reducing the claimed value of a donated television from \$3,000 to \$1,500.

The former Dallas mayor is the fourth nominee by President Barack Obama to run into tax problems.

A third of the Senate voted against Tim Geithner's confirmation as treasury secretary after it was disclosed that he had to pay more than \$34,000 in back taxes and interest on income he made while working for the In-

ternational Monetary Fund.

Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle then withdrew as a nominee to become Health and Human Services after it was disclosed that he failed to pay \$128,000 in taxes. Nancy Killefer, Obama's pick for chief performance officer, also bowed out amid tax problems.

White House spokesman Ben LaBolt said Kirk was working to clear up "a few minor issues" uncovered by the Senate committee. LaBolt expressed confidence that Kirk would be confirmed by the Senate.

the Dow Jones benchmark finished below 7,000 for the first time since May 1, 1997.

### Oil hovers above \$40 after big drop overnight

**SINGAPORE (AP)**—Oil prices hovered above \$40 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after grim U.S. economic news and tumbling stock markets sparked a huge drop overnight. Benchmark crude for April delivery rose 28 cents to \$40.43 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices fell \$4.61, or 10 percent, to settle at \$40.15 a barrel Monday after American International Group Inc. reported losses of \$61.7 billion in the fourth quarter, the largest quarterly loss in U.S. corporate history. AIG, once the world's largest insurer, will receive up to \$30 billion of federal assistance on top of the \$150 billion in loans the company has already gotten from the government. Oil investors often look to equity markets as a measure of broad sentiment on the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 4.2 percent Monday to 6,723, a 12-year low.

# Nation

## Obama releases secret Bush anti-terror memos

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Obama administration threw open the curtain on years of Bush-era secrets Monday, revealing anti-terror memos that claimed exceptional search-and-seizure powers and divulging that the CIA destroyed nearly 100 videotapes of interrogations and other treatment of terror suspects.

The Justice Department released nine legal opinions showing that, following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Bush administration determined that certain constitutional rights would not apply during the coming fight. Within

two weeks, government lawyers were already discussing ways to wiretap U.S. conversations without warrants.

The Bush administration eventually abandoned many of the legal conclusions, but the documents themselves had been closely held. By releasing them, President Barack Obama continued a house-cleaning of the previous administration's most contentious policies.

"Too often over the past decade, the fight against terrorism has been viewed as a zero-sum battle with our civil liberties," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a speech a few hours

before the documents were released. "Not only is that school of thought misguided, I fear that in actuality it does more harm than good."

The Obama administration also acknowledged in court documents Monday that the CIA destroyed 92 videos involving terror suspects, including interrogations—far more than had been known. Congressional Democrats and other critics have charged that some of the harsh interrogation techniques amounted to torture, a contention President George W. Bush and other Bush officials rejected.

## Jindal defends message of his GOP speech

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)**—Widely panned for his national TV address, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal offered his first defense of the speech Monday, saying he sticks by the message, while acknowledging shortcomings in his delivery.

"Look, I get that people thought I could have spoken better. I get that. That's fine ... What's important to me is the content. I'm a policy guy. You guys know that. I've always been a policy guy, always will be a policy guy. The ideas are important. The substance is important," Jindal told report-

ers in the state Capitol, a day after returning from a family vacation.



Jindal

The 37-year-old governor, regularly touted as a presidential contender, said he outlined a critical philosophical distinction between the views of Democrats and Republicans as he gave the national GOP response to Obama's first address to Congress last week.

Republican party leaders have touted the Oxford-educated Jindal, son of Indian immigrants, as the future of the GOP, generating lofty expectations for his debut national address. Jindal said he wrote the speech himself.

But the address has been the target of political commentators, comics and bloggers who called it amateurish and out of step with the American public. Some critiqued Jindal's delivery as too "sing-songy," and compared it to the late children's television host Mister Rogers.

## Ferocious storm dumps heavy snow on East Coast

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A ferocious storm packing freezing rain, heavy snow and furious wind gusts paralyzed most of the East Coast on Monday, sending dozens of cars careening into ditches, grounding hundreds of flights and closing school for millions of kids.

The devastating effects of

the storm were seen up and down the coast. A crash caused a 15-mile traffic jam in North Carolina, forcing police and the Red Cross to go car-to-car to check on stranded drivers. The storm was blamed for 350 crashes in New Jersey, and a Maryland official counted about 50 cars in the ditch on

one stretch of highway.

By Monday, the storm had moved north into New England, and most areas in the storm's wake expected to see at least 8 to 12 inches of snow. The weather contributed to four deaths on roads in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and on Long Island.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Casey Anthony faces October trial on murder charge

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—A central Florida mother will go on trial in October on a charge of murdering her 2-year-old daughter. Casey Anthony's first-degree murder trial has been tentatively set for Oct. 12. She is accused of killing her daughter, Caylee, whose remains were found in the woods in Orlando last December, six months after she disappeared. Circuit Judge Stan Strickland also agreed to temporarily stop the public release of a jailhouse video of Casey Anthony reacting to news that Caylee's remains had been found until her defense attorney can view the video. Casey Anthony claimed that Caylee was kidnapped by a baby sitter and has pleaded not guilty. Hundreds of volunteers had helped search for Caylee after she was reported missing over the summer.

#### NYPD lieutenant sues to get gun and badge back

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A police lieutenant who once reported seeing a "demon" at police headquarters is suing to get his gun and shield back, claiming supervisors took them from him because of his religious practices. Dominic Maglione, a desk officer at Brooklyn's 90th Precinct, says in a lawsuit filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court that he is a Christian who worships at two Queens churches and prays and fasts regularly. Maglione, 44, acknowl-

edged in interviews with psychiatrists after he was admitted to a hospital 2 1/2 years ago that he was praying as much as 10 hours at a stretch and fasting twice a week, court papers say. At the hospital, Maglione told a medical professional that he had seen a demon at police headquarters, according to a police board medical report dated Dec. 19, 2008, that was included with Maglione's court papers.

#### Neb. deputies say man stuffed cat inside 'bong'

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)**—A man who tried to cool out his hyper cat by stuffing her into a boxlike homemade bong faces cruelty charges—and catcalls from animal lovers. Lancaster County sheriff's deputies responding to a domestic disturbance call Sunday alleged they saw 20-year-old Acea Schomaker smoking marijuana through a piece of garden hose attached to a duct-taped, plastic glass box in which the cat had been stuffed. "This cat was just dazed," Sgt. Andy Stebbing said. "She was on the front seat of the cop car, wrapped in a blanket, and never moved all the way to the humane society." Schomaker told deputies 6-month-old Shadow was hyper and he was trying to calm her down. The contraption she had been stuffed inside was 12 inches by 6 inches. Shadow was timid but in good condition Monday at the Capital Humane Society, executive director Bob Downey said.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Most Asian markets extend slump amid finance gloom

**HONG KONG (AP)**—Most Asian stock markets extended their slump Tuesday after unremitting troubles at financial giants like American International Group and HSBC sent Wall Street tumbling to new multiyear lows overnight. Declines across the region added to a global sell-off that started last week as the world economic slump showed no signs of abating and financial firms, despite billions in government aid, continued reeling from losses. The pain spread Monday after AIG announced a stunning \$62 billion loss for the fourth quarter—the biggest in U.S. corporate history—and accepted another \$30 billion in bailout money from the government. In Europe, HSBC Holdings PLC, said it needs to raise about \$18 billion and reported a 70 percent drop in earnings for last year. Shares in HSBC, Europe's largest bank by market value, plunged nearly 18 percent in Hong Kong trade. With no end to the economic crisis in sight, markets in the U.S. and Europe plummeted overnight, and



# Asia

## Bangladesh deploys army to catch mutineers



AP  
An army officer, right, cries as he holds the coffin of his colleague on way to the funeral at Banani graveyard in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday, March 2, 2009.

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Bangladesh's government deployed soldiers nationwide Monday to hunt down over 1,000 border guards wielding stolen weapons who fled after a bloody mutiny left scores of army officers dead.

The powerful military, which has backed 21 coups in the country's 38-year history and only relinquished power to an elected government two months ago, is furious about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's handling of the crisis and could yet threaten her

young administration.

The two-day mutiny last week left the border guards' compound in the capital, Dhaka, littered with the corpses of dozens of army officers. Rescuers have recovered 77 bodies, while 71 officers were still unaccounted for and presumed dead.

The military said Hasina should have ordered an army assault to end the crisis and curtail the bloodshed. But after hundreds of mutineers fled the compound she instead promised them amnesty, a promise she

later withdrew for those directly responsible for the killings.

The government Monday said the army would scour the country for the more than 1,000 border guards still at large. Police have charged them with murder, arson and hostage-taking.

"The army will remain in the field as long as necessary," Home Minister Shahara Khatun told reporters. He insisted that the "fugitive rebels" represented a serious threat to public safety because they were armed with stolen arms and grenades.

## Sri Lankan cricket team attacked in Pakistan

**LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)**—A dozen masked gunmen armed with rifles and rocket launchers attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team as it traveled to a match in Pakistan on Tuesday, wounding several players and killing five police officers, officials said.

The assailants ambushed the team's convoy at a traffic circle close to the main sports stadium in the eastern city of Lahore ahead of a match against Pakistan's national team, triggering a 15-minute gunbattle with police guarding the vehicles.

None of the attackers were

killed or captured at the scene, said city police chief Haji Habibur Rehman said. Authorities did not speculate on the identities of the attackers or their motives.

TV footage showed gunmen with backpacks—apparently the attackers—firing at the convoy as they retreated from the scene, with several damaged vehicles and a lone, unexploded grenade lying on the ground.

Pakistan is battling a ferocious insurgency by Islamist militants with links to al-Qaida who have staged high-profile attacks on

civilian targets before. Authorities will also be looking possible links to Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger separatist rebels who are being badly hit in a military offensive at home.

The attack took place three months after the Mumbai terror attacks, which were allegedly carried out by Pakistan militants. In the past, nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India have blamed each other for attacks in their territories. Any allegations like that would worsen the already dangerously high tensions between the countries.

capital, Lhasa, last March led to a crackdown on protesters in Lhasa and Tibetan communities throughout the region. Also approaching is the March 10 anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising that sent the Dalai Lama into exile.

### Chinese man bids but won't pay for looted bronzes

**BEIJING (AP)**—A Chinese art collector revealed himself Monday as the man behind the winning bids for two imperial bronzes auctioned at Christie's over Beijing's objections, then announced he had no intention of paying the \$36 million. The audacious act of commercial

sabotage exposes the tensions China and other countries, such as Greece and Egypt, face in trying to recover cultural objects plundered in war or stolen. One overseas expert in looted relics called the fake bids "brilliant"—a ploy likely to be copied in future disputed sales. The bogus bids were the latest attempt by both the Chinese government and private citizens to block the sale of the pieces, which disappeared when French and British forces sacked and burned the imperial Summer Palace outside Beijing in 1860 at the end of the second Opium War. Chinese view the devastation of the palace as a national humiliation.

# World

## Raul Castro ousts top Cubans loyal to Fidel

**HAVANA (AP)**—President Raul Castro abruptly ousted some of Cuba's most powerful officials Monday, remaking the government in the biggest shakeup since he took over from his ailing brother Fidel Castro a year ago. The changes replaced some key Fidel loyalists, including the longtime foreign minister, with men closer to Raul. They also reduced the enormous powers of a vice president credited with saving

Cuba's economy after the fall of the Soviet Union.

But analysts saw no immediate indication that the changes are related to hopes for closer U.S.-Cuban ties now that both countries have new presidents.

Several ministries were consolidated in response to President Raul Castro's calls for a "more compact and functional structure" for the often unwieldy communist bureaucracy

that oversees nearly all public activity on the island.

The most sweeping leadership shakeup in years was dropped on Cubans almost as an afterthought—at the end of the midday news, following the weather and sports.

The most prominent of those ousted, Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, was the youngest of Cuba's top leaders and had been widely mentioned as a possible future president.



AP  
This combo photo shows from left to right; Cuba's Economy Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez in this Oct. 6, 1997 file photo; Cuba's Vice President Carlos Lage Davila in this Sept. 1, 2005 file photo and Cuba's Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque in this Nov. 11, 2008 file photo.

## Twin assassinations leave Guinea-Bissau in turmoil

**BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP)**—The man who ruled this small African nation for nearly a quarter-century was assassinated Monday just hours after a bomb killed his longtime rival, the armed forces chief, leaving behind a precarious power vacuum as the country struggles to stem a booming cocaine trade.

Analysts fear the back-to-back assassinations could shake up drug cartels that use the country as a transit point

for shipping cocaine to Europe, leading to new alliances.

President Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira had ruled Guinea-Bissau for 22 of the past 29 years, surviving numerous attempted coups, including one four months ago when gunmen opened fire on his home. Vieira later complained that the military had failed to intervene, leaving his body guards to fend off the attackers alone.

Tension between him and the head of the army escalated further in January, when Gen. Bataiste Tagme na Waie received a call from the president's office, asking him to come at once, said his chief of staff Lt. Col. Bwam Namtcho. Waie rushed outside and was nearly killed when assailants opened fire on his car, a sequence of events that prompted Waie to believe the attack had been ordered by Vieira.

## Gazans want open borders, not handouts

**RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)**—As top diplomats pledged billions of dollars for war-ravaged Gaza on Monday, ordinary people here—from merchants to housewives—said they'd rather have open borders than handouts.

Even some tunnel smugglers who profit from Gaza's blockaded borders say they'd rather

import legally through open crossings than risk Israeli bombing raids and shaft collapses.

"I want a cease-fire and open borders. Crossings are better than tunnels," said 22-year-old smuggler Abu Mahmoud, leaning over a shaft as workers tried to clear a 300-foot stretch of tunnel that had collapsed un-

der an Israeli airstrike.

The closure of Gaza, imposed by Israel and Egypt after a violent Hamas takeover in June 2007, has deepened poverty and fostered militancy. A three-week military offensive in Gaza by Israel caused considerable destruction but left the militants in power.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Report: Tibetan monks protest New Year prayer ban

**BEIJING (AP)**—Defiant Buddhist monks banned from marking a key Tibetan New Year prayer festival marched in protest in China's southwest, rights groups and officials said. It was the latest resistance to Chinese rule ahead of sensitive anniversaries in Tibet. Tensions are high over harsh security measures set up before the Monlam festival, which began Feb. 25. The usually merry new year has been largely subdued since the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, said celebrations would be "inappropriate" after deadly anti-government riots in Tibet's

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Chief nuke inspector chides Iran, Syria

**VIENNA (AP)**—The U.N. nuclear monitoring agency cannot exclude the possibility that Iran may be hiding atomic activities, the agency's head said Monday. Mohamed ElBaradei also acknowledged deadlock in a probe of alleged attempts by Tehran to make nuclear arms. On Syria, which is also the focus of a nuclear investigation, ElBaradei suggested that Damascus seemed to be stonewalling efforts by his International Atomic Energy Agency to establish whether it tried to secretly build a plutonium producing reac-

tor. Neither observation was new but were noteworthy in reflecting how the IAEA was being stymied in its investigations of the two countries.

#### Former Iranian president promises help for Iraq

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—One of Iran's most powerful political and religious figures—former President Hashemi Rafsanjani—promised Monday to assist in Iraq's reconstruction after nearly six years of war that has involved Shiite militias with suspected links to Tehran. "We hope the era of conflict and hardships for Iraq

is coming to an end," Rafsanjani told reporters in his first visit to Iraq since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran, a predominantly Shiite country, has close ties with Iraq's Shiite-led government and seeks to expand its commercial links as Iraq looks ahead to projects to rebuild roads and core services such as electrical networks and sewers. Rafsanjani's visit came three days after President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. military would end its combat mission in Iraq in August 2010 but leave up to 50,000 soldiers in support roles until the end of 2011.



# Campus Life

## A balancing act as teacher, admin, ACT president

**S**an Vicente Elementary School vice principal Betty Miller shares with *Saipan Tribune* how she fulfills all the important roles in her life as a mother, school administrator, and president of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers.

**Question: How are you able to manage your time as a mother, school administrator, and teachers' group president all at the same time?**

**Answer:** At times it can be difficult to balance my responsibilities as a mother, school administrator, and president of ACT. However, I find that, if I prioritize and manage my time carefully, I'm fairly successful. It helps that my family and colleagues are understanding and supportive, as well as forgiving when I do make mistakes!

**Q. What particular issues are you concerned about as a mother, administrator, and teachers' group head?**

**A.** I think I worry about the same things all parents worry about: making sure my kids are safe and healthy. Believe it or not, you don't stop worrying about these things when they are grown and out on their own; sometimes I think I worry more now! As an administrator and president of ACT there are many issues and concerns that come my way on a daily basis. I do my best to provide assistance to the best of my ability, but I am not perfect in doing so. When the going gets tough, I try to remember these responsibilities do not define who



Betty Miller poses with her beloved students.

I am. At the end of the day, I'm still just Betty Miller: teacher at heart, proud parent, and imperfect human being!

**Q. What satisfaction do you get from these various tasks?**

**A.** I can't begin to describe the joy that I feel from the various roles I have in my life. Each is an important part of

the whole.

**Q. For you, which among the three roles is more important to fulfill?**

**A.** I wouldn't say any role is more "important" than another. My children know that they will always be my No. 1 priority, and I don't miss an event that they have requested I attend (such

as sports, etc.) However, my kids respect and admire all that I am trying to do professionally, so they pitch in and help out at school events, etc., as well. There are opportunities for my family to support me at work just as much as I support them outside work. For us, it's about maintaining a healthy balance between the needs of your family, your work, and yourself!

**Q. Do you have a legacy you want to leave your family, school, and PSS teachers?**

**A.** Wow, when you ask about legacy, I feel like I'm some sort of a legend. I'm just like every other parent and teacher out there. I love my kids, I want what is best for them (both at home and at school) and I work hard to make sure they have all that they need. The same concept applies to my role as president of ACT. When teachers express a need, I do the best I can to see that it is addressed. Happy parents lead to happy children, while happy teachers lead to happy students!

**Q. Do you have any memorable experiences while fulfilling all these duties?**

**A.** I'd say one of my most memorable experiences was when our school was trying to raise funds to assist with hosting the Micro Games on Saipan. The students designed a skit about the importance of the Micro Games and how they almost didn't happen, and our family fun day included a booth where the kids could challenge a national athlete from the CNMI basketball or volleyball teams. The children were so excited to have the opportunity to challenge an athlete on one of the national teams, and we managed to raise over \$300 to support these teams in the Micro Games. I was also a proud parent in that both of my children participated as national team athletes in this event.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### COUNSELING WEEK

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez poses for a group photo with school counselors from the Public School System after proclaiming CNMI School Counseling Week from March 2 to March 6 of this year. Villagomez signed the proclamation Friday at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

#### Marianas High School schedule

Mar. 5 3rd Quarter Mid Progress Report distribution to students

Mar. 14 Saipan Chamber of Commerce, "I'm Almost Graduating, What Now?" workshop, 8am-2pm MHS cafeteria (open to Juniors and Seniors; 50 slots available). See MHS Counselor for more information

Mar. 24 No classes (Commonwealth Covenant Day)

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206

#### SSHS mid-progress reports out

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Mid-progress reports are scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, March 5, 2009, from 4pm to 7pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents, legal guardian visit. All students will be released at 1pm. Please join us. **(PR)**

#### Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting

The PTSA Officers of Oleai Elemen-

tary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. **(PR)**

#### MHS Class of 1970 meeting set

The Marianas High School's Class of '70 will be having an organizational meeting on March 6, 2009, at 5:30pm, at the Bicol Pavilion, next to Kilili Beach. Be there! **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### TAX CREDIT DONATION

Members of the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja DARE/GUTS Student Body pose with the staff and management of Saipan Bisnes Mami-Napa Auto Parts after presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to the manager, Satya Vallabhaneni, for his Educational Tax Credit donation. Presenting on behalf of ESFDB is STUCO president Baltazar Mendiola, ESFDB DARE/GUTS Rep. Randee Jo Barcinas, and Maricel Atalig.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB DARE/GUTS presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pacific Islands Club-Saipan for their donation during the school's fundraiser and dance competition. From left: ESFDB teacher Jesus Ledesma, ESFDB principal Sr. Susie Capua, RVM, and PIC supervisor Alfred Fernandez (accepting on behalf of the management of PIC-Saipan), Others in photo are ESFDB STUCO president Baltazar Mendiola, ESFDB DARE/GUTS Rep. Maricel Atalig and Randee Jo Barcinas, and ESFDB DARE STUCO president Van Cing. Not in photo is ESFDB board president and PRTI regional supervisor Edward Maratita, Jr.



# Life & Style

Shanghai at night.

KRISTI EATON

SHANGHAI DAY 2

## Parsing international communication

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

One of my favorite parts of traveling is meeting people from across the world and realizing that, ultimately, I can strike up a conversation with anyone. Granted, my lack of foreign language skills means they probably need to speak English, but I'm not opposed to using hand signals.

On Sunday, within two hours of waking up, I met a Malaysian-born, Texas-living Dell Computers support tech living in Houston. Since I've been to Houston before, we shared a brief conversation about the suburbs, as well as where exactly the Northern Mariana Islands is located. Later in the day, I met four Germans from Frankfurt, which just so happens to be the one city in Germany that I've ever traveled to. We bond over Apple Wine and the country's cuisine.

Seeing them, as well as the few other white people around the city, reminds me that most Caucasians do tend to be taller and larger than Asians. I forget that while living on Saipan. Height seems to be a characteristic most Asians think about when they picture Americans. One of my tour guides asked if most people in the U.S. are as short as me. I laugh. If only....

The day began with a trip to the top of the



The Shanghai World Financial Center Observatory is one of the tallest buildings in the world.

Shanghai World Financial Center Observatory, one of the tallest buildings in the world. Riding the elevator to the 95th floor at 8 meters per second—ears popping—felt a little bit like an attraction I might have experienced at Disney World. Once finally up to the 100th floor, every angle of Shanghai was visible.

Nearby, I, along with my travel companion, KSPN2 TV news reporter Lannie Walker, and our two tour guides, visited the Shanghai Ocean Aquarium, where we viewed aquatic creatures from around the world, including penguins and an alligator only found in China. Next up was the Oriental Pearl Television Tower, a building similar to the SWFC Observatory, which allows people to go to the top to see great views of the city.

But before the Television Tower was lunch. It was Lannie's and my first time to eat actual Chinese food in China, and it was an experience in and of itself, at least for me.

"You like spicy food?" I'm asked. "Sure," I half-heartedly respond. Too bad ice water isn't really available in most restaurants. My idea of swallowing each bite with big gulp of cold water failed when they brought steaming hot water to the table.

And, unfortunately, I failed to master the fine art of using chopsticks while growing up. I blame the lack of Oriental restaurants in Oklahoma, and the fact that the few restaurants in the state have forks readily available.

However, there were no forks in sight at this restaurant, which served Sichuan-style Chinese food. I think I added a little entertainment to the group, though, as I desperately tried to get the food from my plate to

my mouth. I have vowed that once back on Saipan, I will improve my finger dexterity by practicing with chopsticks 10 minutes each day.

As I've traveled through Asia, I've learned I can sometimes experience more Americana on that continent than on Saipan. I had one such moment Sunday night when we headed to the Blue Frog, a local expat bar reminiscent of a popular bar in my hometown. Sipping wine and eating chips and hummus, I felt

like I could be back on the other side of the world. That is until I got in the cab and once more reverted back to using the tried-and-true technique of hand signals in order to communicate with the driver.



A mother shows her son one of the many creatures on display at the Shanghai Ocean Aquarium. KRISTI EATON



A little boy looks at the view of Shanghai from the 100th floor of the Shanghai World Financial Center Observatory.



A local government building is lit up at night.



The Oriental Pearl Television Tower.

KRISTI EATON

KRISTI EATON



# Feeling down? Author hopes to help with new book

**LAGUNA BEACH, Calif.** (AP)—His smile is relaxed and his blue eyes are twinkling, but Dr. Spencer Johnson says he's under pressure.

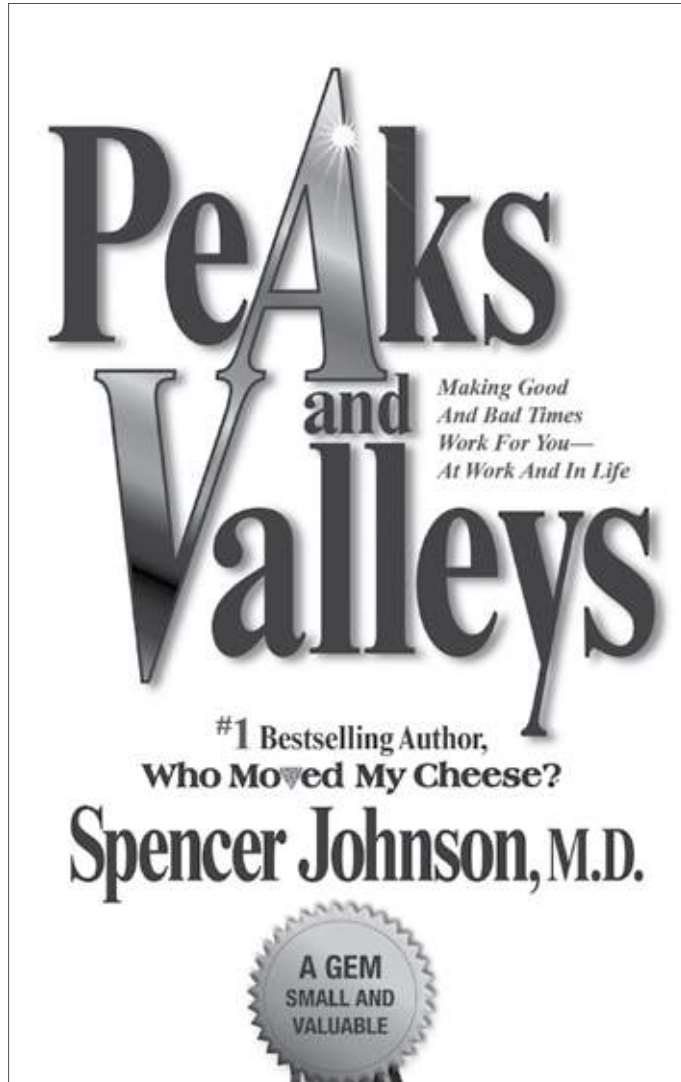
The best-selling author, whose titles include "Who Moved My Cheese?" and "The One Minute Manager," has a new book out Tuesday. He spent more than 20 years writing "Peaks and Valleys," which was slated for release next fall, but the nation's dire economic circumstances inspired publishers to rush it out sooner.

"I've never felt as much pressure on being a real practical service to people," the author says. "The problems are so big right now and the pain is so acute ... I hope to God I've done a good enough job that this can really help people—not sort of help them a little bit, but really make a huge difference."

Johnson, 70, has an impressive track record of successful sales and uncanny timing. "Cheese" also took 20 years to write, and the little parable about facing change came out in 1998, when a new thing called the Internet revolutionized how business was done. It sold more than 10 million copies and became a must-read for workers worldwide. "The One Minute Manager" was also embraced by the business community. Based on years of the author's personal experience, the book came out in 1982, amid national fears that American productivity was falling behind the Japanese. Today there are more than 46 million copies of Johnson's books in print. But don't credit him for the well-timed releases.

"People talk erroneously about my incredible timing," he says. "Well, it's not my timing. I'm part of a much bigger overall picture."

But, he says, "I knew this book would come out when we were in a valley. People pay



AP  
In this book cover released by Simon & Schuster, the latest book by Spencer Johnson, "Peaks and Valleys," is shown.

more attention when they're in the valley."

Like his previous books, "Peaks and Valleys" is a short and simple parable. It tells the story of a young man trying to make sense of the ups and downs in his life. He meets a sage—who speaks a lot like Johnson does in person—who encourages him to be grateful for good times and look for light during rough patches, accepting both as part of life's natural rhythm.

Johnson created the tale more than two decades ago, when he was in a personal val-

ley of his own.

"I like to live the story myself," he says. "Then I share it with friends and watch them live it. I really like to take my time and see if it really works."

He based his past best-sellers on time-tested personal experiences, too. Each arose out of his own desire to be happier and live better. He'd read and research, try new approaches and share them with colleagues, then base his writing on techniques they said were effective. Johnson rewrites the manuscripts again and again, he says, reflecting reader feedback.

## Florence festival cancels 2 operas

**ROME (AP)**—An Italian music organization says it is canceling performances of Giuseppe Verdi's "Macbeth" and Benjamin Britten's "Billy Budd" due to cuts in government funding.

The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino said Monday that "Macbeth" had been scheduled to open on June 4 and "Billy Budd" on June 23 as part of its festival in Florence.

Last week, the theater said unspecified cuts would have to be made in its spring and summer opera offerings because of the inadequate funding.

On Monday, it said the festival would open on time with Richard Wagner's "Goetterdaemmerung," and that the rest of the season's program will be announced later.

The festival is a European tradition showcasing leading performers in major operas. This year, it runs from April 29 to July 2.

"After the first draft, it's not about me," he says. "It's based on something I think is much more powerful, and that is a variety of experiences, from people with Ph.D.s to people who didn't graduate high school. When it comes out, it's already been tested extensively."

Johnson says he also regularly looks at reader reviews of his books on Amazon.com and makes many of their recommended changes.

He rewrote "Cheese" at least 10 times, he says: "Nobody knows, but with each printing, I rewrite the book based on what I've learned from readers."

A medical doctor who began writing when he was an undergraduate student at the University of Southern California, Johnson pursues what he calls "universal truths"—things that hold true for human beings regardless of age, culture or circumstances.

He began his search for such truths "when my life wasn't working," he says. The misery of divorce led him to study things he normally wouldn't have, and he cites an unlikely book, "The Mystical Path to Cosmic Power," as one of his central inspirations.

"I really disliked the title," he says. "I said I'm not mystical and I'm not cosmic, so I'm sure I'll get nothing out of this book. But things got so desperate that

I finally looked at it.

"That was life-changing for me," he continues. "I changed a lot of my beliefs and behaviors, and I think that's been reflected in what I've written."

Readers who sense a spiritual element to his work are right, he says, though he doesn't address it directly. There are Zen principles in the new book, as well as in "Cheese" and "The One Minute Manager."

"I never said it overtly because I try to write for a universal audience," he says. "That's where the spiritual becomes so powerful, because the spiritual connects us. But I like the spiritual in very practical terms. To me, spiritual just means being in touch with the truth."

Some have criticized Johnson's books for being too simplistic and obvious. There are almost as many one-star reviews as five-star responses to "Cheese" on Amazon.com. One reviewer calls it "the WORST business book I have ever read."

Johnson accepts the criticism. For some, he says, his parables may seem too simple. But for Betsy Myers, chief operations officer for President Barack Obama's campaign, "the simplicity of it makes it wonderful."

"We already know this stuff in a way, but it's that little reminder," she says of "Peaks

and Valleys," which she has shared with politicians and others in the new administration. (Their feedback is reflected in the edition in stores Tuesday, Johnson says.)

"People get trapped in their own brains," Myers adds, "and a book like this is a positive reminder of how to look at your life in a different way that might take you to a better place."

Making basic life principles easy to understand is one of Johnson's gifts, says friend and colleague John Kotter, professor of leadership at Harvard Business School.

"Trying to dig in on really basic stuff is very difficult to do. It's an art, not a science, and most people aren't very good at that art form," Kotter says. "(Johnson) really does have some insights, not only into people and human nature, but into communication."

Johnson says he's no guru, and he knows the material he's presenting isn't new. The author, who rarely grants interviews and doesn't allow his photo to appear on book jackets or in news articles, says he shouldn't be credited for the success of his books.

"I love my books being well-known. I feel very honored about that. But the ideas are more important than the author," he says. "It's not me, it's the reader that deserves the credit. It's what they get out of it and apply to their own life."

## Met puts up 2 Chagalls as collateral for loan

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The Metropolitan Opera has put up two giant Marc Chagall murals in its lobby as collateral on an existing loan, the latest example of how the nation's top fine arts institutions are struggling to cope with the economic downturn.

Met spokesman Peter Clark said Monday that the nation's premier opera house was using the 30- by 36-foot paintings as collateral for "a long-standing loan." He declined to specify the loan amount or the appraised value of the works, "The Triumph of Music" and "The Sources of Music."

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts commissioned the murals from the French painter for its lobby in the 1960s.

The paintings will remain in the lobby unless the Met defaults on the loan. Clark wasn't sure whether the Met had used

art works as collateral before. The Met's Chagall collateral was first reported by New York Magazine.

The Met is dropping some planned revivals from its 2009-2010 season and substituting less costly productions. It is also slashing senior staff members' salaries by 10 percent to stay within its \$291 million annual budget. The opera house's \$300 million endowment has fallen with stock prices, along with donations, Met General Manager Peter Gelb said.

The faltering economy has led to a growing number of individuals and institutions using fine art as loan collateral in recent months.

Photographer Annie Liebovitz borrowed over \$15 million against rights to all her photographs and her New York townhouse, according to city records.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Berlita 'Berly' Pontillas Vidal*

**February 28, 1945 - March 1, 2009**

*In her new life, she now joins her:*

**Parents:** Federico Pontillas and Cirila Pontillas  
**Brother & Siter-In-Law:** Leopoldo Fontillas and Elvie Fontillas  
**Sisters:** Petronia Ramos, Jacinta Ramos  
**Father-in-law & Mother-in-law:** Vicente Vidal and Carmen Vidal

*Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her:*

**Husband:** Rudico 'Rudy' De Guzman Vidal  
**Daughter & Son-in-Law:** Noreta V. Pamintuan and Emanuel D. Pamintuan  
**Grandchildren:** Joanne V. Pamintuan, Ianne Miles V. Pamintuan, Aaron Paul V. Pamintuan, Noemy Grace V. Pamintuan, Manuel V. Pamintuan  
**Daughter & Son-in-Law:** Nenita V. Grdina and Joe Grdina  
**Grandchildren:** Nicholas V. Grdina, Tyler V. Grdina  
**Daughter & Grandchildren:** Eleonor P. Vidal, Bryant V. Dy, Ivan P. Vidal

**Daughters and Son:** Leah P. Vidal, Alyssa P. Vidal, Ryan P. Vidal, Marcelina Amigable, Esmeria Perez  
**Sisters:** Dominga Pontillas and Elenita Pontillas  
**Brother & Sister-in-law:** Juliana Aguibag and Puring Aguibag  
**Sister & Brothe-in-law:** Virginia Calpo and Loreto Calpo  
**Sister & Brother-in-law:** Lilia Srichinda and JJ Srichinda



She will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nightly rosary is being said at Nuestra Señora dela Paz, Cabrera Center, Garapan, Saipan at 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Final viewing will take place prior to her remains departure to Olongapo City, Philippines. The date will be announced later.

Thank You.

*From the Family*



# Obama kicks up White House entertaining

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is the place to be on Wednesdays.

Since the presidency changed hands less than six weeks ago, a burst of entertaining has taken hold of the iconic, white-columned home of America's head of state. Much of it comes on Wednesdays.

The stately East Room, where portraits of George and Martha Washington adorn the walls, was transformed into a concert hall as President Barack Obama presented Stevie Wonder with the nation's highest award for pop music on Wednesday.

A week before that, the foot-stomping sounds of Sweet Honey in the Rock, a female a cappella group, filled the East Room for a Black History Month program first lady Michelle Obama held for nearly 200 sixth- and seventh-graders from around the city.

Cocktails were sipped during at least three such receptions to date, all held on Wednesdays.

Bookending the midweek activity were a Super Bowl party for select Democratic and Republican lawmakers and a dinner for governors, the new administration's first black-tie affair. It was capped with a performance by the 1970s pop group Earth, Wind and Fire. And a conga line.

The flurry of entertaining is in keeping with the Obamas' promise to make the White House a more open place for everyone.

The governors' dinner was "a great kickoff of what we hope will be an atmosphere here in the White House that is welcoming and that reminds everybody that this is the people's house," Obama told the state chief executives after they had dined on Maryland crab, Wagyu beef, Nantucket scallops and citrus salad. "We are just temporary occupants. This is a place that belongs to the American people and we want to make sure that everybody understands it's open," he said.

At the dinner in the State Dining Room, the Obamas looked comfortable, chatting and smiling with their guests. Afterward, they escorted the governors



In this Feb. 25, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrive to host 'Stevie Wonder In Performance at the White House: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize' in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

down the hall to the East Room, which had been arranged with few tables and chairs to encourage dancing to "September," "Boogie Wonderland" and other hits from a musical group Obama listened to growing up.

The conga line formed after the media were escorted out and, apparently, after Obama had called it a night.

"Thank you also for waiting until I had left before you started the conga line," the president told the governors the next morning. "I hear it was quite a spectacle."

Some Obama guests say he immediately puts them at ease. He indulges them and serves cookies, too.

"People like me felt comfortable in his

presence," said Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., a self-described "poor country boy" who said he felt like a "freshman going to the senior prom" when he attended a White House reception for leaders of the congressional caucuses.

"Sometimes when you're in the presence of the most powerful person in the world, in the most powerful democracy in the world ... I was in awe that I was comfortable," said Honda, chairman of the Asian Pacific American Caucus. "I think that's his style and how he grew up, who he is."

"He's down to earth and engaging," Honda said.

Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., was among those invited to the Super Bowl.

He said Obama, an avid sports fan, joined his guests for most of the game between the Arizona Cardinals and ultimately triumphant Pittsburgh Steelers.

"It wasn't a circumstance where he came in and said 'Hi' and then left," Franks said. "He actually stayed and watched the game."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said Obama was very cordial, and he and the first lady made guests feel comfortable. The president talked to everyone before the game started, she said, including a 12-year-old boy who asked Obama where the bathroom was.

"My favorite part was when he personally served us cookies—oatmeal raisin—when we were watching the

game," she said.

The gathering in the White House theater over hot dogs and hamburgers was one of several get-to-know-the-members events Obama held as he lobbied Congress to support his nearly \$800 billion economic recovery package. His efforts produced no Republican votes in the House and just three in the Senate, but Franks said he still appreciated the Democratic president's efforts to reach out to the opposing party.

"I think the value of social interaction like this is not so much that it co-opts anyone in any way. It certainly didn't in my case," said Franks, who described his conversation with Obama at the party as substantive. "I think it humanizes and personalizes opponents. We can diminish politics and try to work together for what's right for the country."

Michelle Obama is doing her own entertaining, too. When her husband visited Canada last month, she organized a "girls' night" at the White House with secretaries, policymakers and popcorn for a screening of "He's Just Not That Into You," the first lady told People magazine.

Obama played the role of "first fan" at the Wonder tribute, and opened up about his and his wife's common enjoyment of Wonder's music.

"As Stevie knows, I'm a huge fan. And he has been a great supporter," Obama said before presenting the award-winning singer-songwriter with the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song from the Library of Congress.

He said Wonder's songs "became the soundtrack of my youth" and that in them he "found peace and inspiration, especially in difficult times."

Obama presented the medal to Wonder, then wrapped the singer in a bear hug. As the media were led out of the room, Wonder struck up "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours," which was a staple of Obama's campaign rallies.

## Jimmy Fallon debuts Monday as 'Late Night' host

NEW YORK (AP)—Almost a year after Jimmy Fallon was named new host of NBC's "Late Night," and 10 days after predecessor Conan O'Brien departed, Fallon made his debut Monday.

Fallon's opening-night guests included Robert De Niro and Justin Timberlake, with Van Morrison as his musical guest. (It airs at 12:35 a.m. EST.)

An hour earlier on CBS, "Late Show with David Letterman" was kicking off some musical excitement of its own: the first of a full week of performances by the superstar band U2. In an unprecedented weeklong booking by "Late Show" (airing at 11:35 p.m. EST), U2 is promoting its new album, "No Line on the Horizon."

"It will be interesting to see if they can make it past Wednesday night," Letterman said on Monday's show.

U2's four members also pitched in for some comedy. Letterman said viewers shouldn't get the impression that these are pretty-boy rock 'n' rollers—they're willing to lend a hand if someone needs some help. Then the camera switched to a shot of U2 shoveling snow outside the Ed Sullivan Theater.

Larry Mullen shoveled while smoking a cigarette, which Letter-



Jimmy Fallon, who is replacing fellow Saturday Night Live alum Conan O'Brien as the host of NBC's "Late Night" talk show, now known as "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," poses for a photograph in his Rockefeller Center office, Monday, Feb. 23, 2009, in New York.

man noted.

"I think there's very little danger of them overdoing it," he cracked.

Later in the show, U2 performed its new song "Breathe."

In his debut monologue, Fallon joked about opening-night jitters with a reference to the weather.

"New York City was hit with a huge snow storm," he noted, "and I woke up this morning and said, 'Please, let it be

a snow day!'"

Fallon, a former cast member of "Saturday Night Live" with several films to his credit, has tapped a long-time "SNL" hand, Michael Shoemaker, to be his producer. A co-producer is Gavin Purcell, who ran "Attack of the Show," the daily Net-centric news hour on cable's G4 channel.

Lorne Michaels (who used to be Fallon's boss on "SNL") continues as "Late Night" executive producer.

Other than excerpts from its monologue, the New York-based show, taped Monday afternoon, was not made available to critics before airtime.

But details and glimpses of the Fallon era "Late Night" have been shared with viewers on the show's Web site for weeks.

"I know I'm gonna get reviewed off the first show, as opposed to the first couple of months," Fallon predicted in a recent interview. "He's no Conan, or 'He's no Letterman—I just want that to be said, and put out there. Then viewers can relax and watch and enjoy."

Fallon's on-air arrival sets in motion a carefully arranged shift by NBC. O'Brien, who took over "Late Night" from its original host, Letterman, in 1993, is now devoting full time to readying his version of the Los Ange-

les-based "Tonight" show, where he will land in June.

"Tonight" veteran Jay Leno will re-

turn to the air come fall with a weeknight prime-time talk-variety show airing at 10 p.m.

## Tax trial opens for 'Dancing with the Stars' champ

MIAMI (AP)—On top of the world a few months ago, Brazilian race car driver and "Dancing with the Stars" champ Helio Castroneves faces possible prison time if convicted at a tax evasion trial that began Monday with selection of a jury.

An ethnically diverse panel of five men and seven women was chosen to hear the case, with attorneys' opening statements set for Tuesday.

Castroneves, a two-time winner of the Indianapolis 500, smiled broadly as he entered Miami's downtown federal courthouse. Prosecutors say Castroneves, his business-manager sister Katiucia and Michigan attorney Alan R. Miller conspired to hide about \$5.5 million in income from the Internal Revenue Service using offshore accounts.

Castroneves claims he relied on experts to advise him on handling finances. He also says his father controlled a Panamanian entity called Seven Promotions at the heart of the prosecution's case.

Castroneves claims the money Seven Promotions received wasn't his tax liability because the income

was for his father, who had financed and promoted his son's career for over 10 years.

Castroneves, his sister and Miller also deny acting "willfully" to evade taxes and that they took improper deductions.

Under federal sentencing guidelines, Castroneves, 33, could get more than six years in prison if convicted of conspiracy and tax evasion from 1999 to 2004. That would short-circuit a brilliant racing career that began in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where a youthful Castroneves broke into the sport by driving go-carts.

Before the trial, U.S. District Judge Donald Graham rejected defense efforts to introduce a large amount of racing memorabilia and numerous photos of Castroneves' rise from obscurity to the pinnacle of his sport.

"It seems to me that many of these exhibits are far a field of the issues in this case," Graham said.

During questioning of prospective jurors, many said they had watched Castroneves either in a race or on the TV dance competition, which he won in 2007.



# British rock group Oasis cancels China tour

**BEIJING (AP)**—Concert organizers confirmed Monday that British rock band Oasis has canceled tour dates in Beijing and Shanghai in April.

The shows, scheduled for Beijing's Capital Arena on April 3 and the Shanghai Grand Stage on April 5, would have been the first in mainland China for the group, currently on a world tour promoting its latest release,

"Dig Out Your Soul."

No explanation has been given for the cancellation, said a venue manager who refused to give his name.

Ticket sales for the show were halted Feb. 28, according to the official China Daily. Details on ticket refunds would be announced later, according to a statement on the ticketing Web site emma.cn.

Last month, the band had posted on its official Web site that: "Oasis are excited to announce their first-ever shows in China as part of their current world tour." The Web site is temporarily unavailable but the band's MySpace page has no mention of cancellations.

It's unclear whether the band will play a previously announced show in Hong Kong on April 7.

A growing number of Western musical acts have traveled to China in recent years, including the Rolling Stones and Elton John.

However, China closely regulates live performances, especially after Icelandic singer Bjork embarrassed authorities last year by shouting "Tibet!" at the end of her concert in Shanghai.

# Gloria Estefan announces South American hits tour

**MIAMI (AP)**—Seven-time Grammy winner Gloria Estefan has performed to many packed arenas worldwide in a career spanning more than two decades. But for the first time she is taking her greatest hits tour to South America.

Estefan announce plans Mon-

day to open in Uruguay on April 9 as she embarks on a tour with stops in Chile, Argentina, Peru and Ecuador. The Cuba native told a news conference that getting back to Latin America brings her "full circle."

"After so many years of planning to perform there, but because

of logistics, you know, and a lot of political upheaval in Latin America ... being available to do it was just too difficult," Estefan explained. "I spent 15 years of my life traveling and we've been trying to get to Latin America forever."

Estefan said she will include older hits such as "Conga" and

"Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" as well as newer ballads including "Anything for You" and "Coming Out of the Dark."

The show comes less than a year after her European tour to promote "90 Millas," a Spanish-language album of original songs inspired by Cuba.

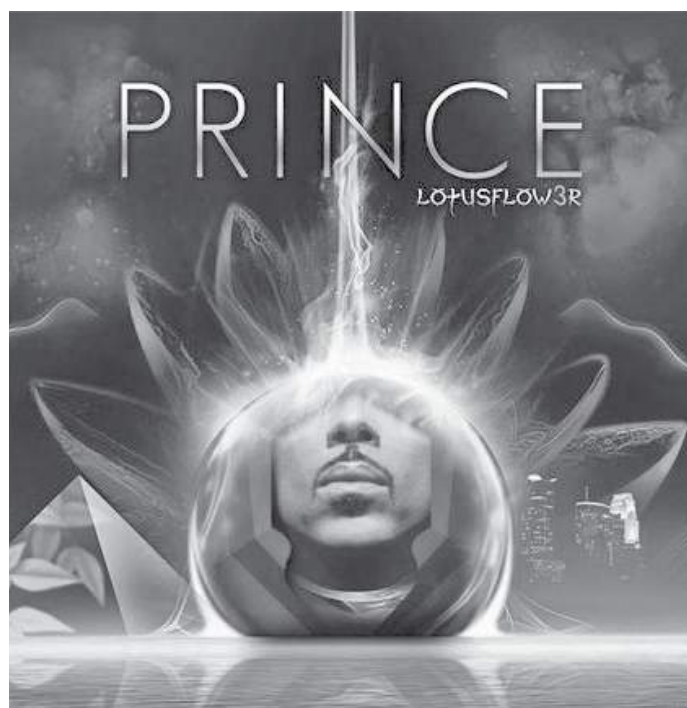
# Prince to release new CD set through Target

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Prince is coming to a Target near you.

The superstar is releasing a three-disc CD set through the retailer at the end of this month. The set will include two new albums—"LotusFlow3R" and "MPLSoUND"—as well as a third by his new artist, Bria Valente, for the price of \$11.98.

Prince is just the latest music legend to release new music exclusively through a major retailer. AC/DC and the Eagles were among the acts who sold millions of CDs through their partnership with Wal-Mart.

Prince has released his recent CDs through major labels, but they were one-album deals that gave him the flexibility to go elsewhere when the project was done.



Last fall, he released a coffee table book of photos titled "21 Nights" documenting his record-breaking, 21-night run at London's O2 Arena in 2007. The book also included a CD of live performances.

"Prince has long been renowned as one of the world's most original and iconic musical artists," said Mark Schindele, Target's senior vice president of merchandising. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share his most recent work with our Target guests."

In this CD cover released by Target, Prince's new studio album "LotusFlow3R," is shown. The album officially goes on sale nationally at Target and Target.com on March 29, 2009.

AP

# Girl caught having sex is blackmailed by her sister

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** My sister, "Joni," caught me having sex with my boyfriend. (We used protection, so it's not like I'm going to get pregnant.)

Our parents were away and Joni was supposed to be gone for several hours, so I thought we would be safe. But Joni had a fight with her boyfriend, came home sooner than we expected and caught us "in the act."

Now she's blackmailing me. I have to hand my allowance over to her—and that's not all. She has turned me into her personal slave—changing her bed, picking up her dirty clothes and doing her chores. She forces me to let her wear my nicest jeans and shirts, but because she's bigger than me, my clothes are getting stretched out of shape or torn at the seams. When I complain, she says, "What are you going to do about it? Go ahead and tell Mom and see what I tell her!"

I know if Joni tells our parents they won't let me see my boyfriend anymore. We're in love, and I couldn't handle that. But the blackmail is driving me crazy. Please help me.

BLACKMAILED IN AMES, IOWA

**DEAR BLACKMAILED:** Part of being sexually active is being mature enough to be responsible about it—and that includes not only making sure you won't become pregnant but also that you won't contract a sexually transmitted disease, some of which, I am sad to say, are rampant today. Because you are sexually active, you should now have regular checkups by a gynecologist and possibly be using a second form of birth control because condoms have been known to fail.

That is why it is important that you confide in your mother. Once she knows, your sister will have nothing to blackmail you about.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I disagree about something. When we use a restaurant coupon, how should we figure the tip? I say you should tip on what the total would have been if you didn't have the coupon. He says we tip on the discounted amount. It is unpleasant to go out anymore because we end up arguing at the end of the meal. Who is right?

COUPONING IN NEW MEXICO

**DEAR COUPONING:** You are. Your husband is already getting a good deal because he is getting a discount. For him to expect the server to suffer a loss in gratuity income is stingy. How would he feel if the person brought out only one entree and let him pick up his from the kitchen? Not too pleased, I suspect.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I have been arguing about relationships after marriage. My daughter was married a while ago, and I have been told that now I must consider her in-laws as "family."

That's not the way I remember learning it. Yes, my daughter is now related to her husband's parents by marriage, but since when is there a "dotted line" connecting them to me?

UNRELATED IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR UNRELATED:** The "dotted line" is the umbilical cord that connected your daughter to your wife and the heartstring that connects you to your daughter. So warm up and get with the program, or the person on the outside will be you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Couric: Rodriguez asked her for some career advice

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Before he lied to her about steroids, Alex Rodriguez turned to Katie Couric for career advice. On the "Late Show with David Letterman" Monday, Couric said she was speaking to Rodriguez frequently when he opted out of his contract in 2007, trying to convince him to do a "60 Minutes" interview. At one point, Rodriguez called to ask her, "What team do you think I should play for?" Letterman responded: "That should have told you he was on the juice, that he's calling you." Rodriguez told Couric in the "60 Minutes" interview that he never took steroids, and it's since been revealed that he had. Couric said Rodriguez both called and wrote a note to her recently to apologize.

### Gary Collins pleads no contest to DUI

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)**—Actor and former TV host Gary Collins faces 120 days in jail or home detention after pleading no contest to misdemeanor driving under the

influence. Santa Barbara Senior Deputy District Attorney Lee Carter said Collins' plea was entered Monday by his lawyer. Because it was Collins' third offense, a 120-day jail sentence is mandatory, but Carter said the actor may apply for electronically monitored home detention instead. Collins also was given three years of probation and a violation of the terms could bring a total of 365 days in jail. His sentence also included a three-year suspension of his driver's license, mandatory attendance at a multiple-offenders school and a 90-day vehicle impoundment.

### New Woody Allen film to open Tribeca Film Festival

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The Tribeca Film Festival will celebrate Woody Allen's return to making films in New York by showing his new movie on the festival's opening night on April 22. "Whatever Works" is Allen's first film shot in his hometown since 2004. He has recently filmed overseas, most recently in Spain, where he made "Vicky Cristina Barce-

lona." "Whatever Works" is a comedy starring Larry David, Evan Rachel Wood, Ed Begley Jr. and Patricia Clarkson. The Tribeca Film Festival, which was co-founded by Robert De Niro, will run through May 3.

### Sharon Osbourne sued over 'Charm School' fracas

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A former contestant on Sharon Osbourne's "Rock of Love Charm School" has sued over an altercation with Osbourne during an episode of the VH1 show. Megan Hauserman's suit filed Monday in Los Angeles claims battery, negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress. She seeks a jury trial and punitive damages. The December incident can be seen on VH1's Web site billed as "Sharon and Megan's big fight." In the video, the women exchange insults, Osbourne pours a drink on Hauserman and then the two are surrounded by a rush of people. The suit claims Osbourne hit Hauserman, pulled her hair and scratched her. Hauserman's at-

torney Warren J. Binder said in an interview: "It's pretty hard to deny what happened on the video." Phone calls and e-mails from The Associated Press to Osbourne's publicists were not immediately returned.

### NYC's West 53rd Street briefly to become 'U2 Way'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Rock band U2 is getting official recognition for their stint this week on David Letterman's show. Mayor Michael Bloomberg is temporarily renaming part of West 53rd Street "U2 Way" on Tuesday, the day the group's latest CD is being released. The band is performing an unprecedented five consecutive times this week on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman." It's the first time a musical guest has performed a full week on the show, which is taped at The Ed Sullivan Theater near the intersection of West 53rd Street and Broadway—near the spot being renamed. The Dublin, Ireland band has sold tens of millions of records and has taken up several political and social causes.







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# LeBron scores 42 in Cavs win over Heat



**MIAMI (AP)**—This time, the Miami Heat were witnesses, not winners, because of a fourth-quarter comeback.

LeBron James scored 42 points, Mo Williams got 17 of his 30 in the fourth quarter, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final minutes to beat the Heat 107-100 on Monday night.

Dwyane Wade had 41 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Miami, strongly following up his 46-point effort two nights earlier against the New York Knicks, when the Heat rallied from 15 points down in the last 9 minutes.

The Cavs are now 47-12 - 35 games over .500 for the first time in franchise history.

Williams got the comeback going with two huge 3-pointers to spark a 12-0 run that erased what seemed like a comfortable lead midway through the final period. And James sealed it with 42.7 seconds left, blowing past Jamario Moon for a fierce right-handed slam to put the Cavs up 100-95.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 12 points and had 15 rebounds for Cleveland, which moved a full game ahead of idle Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

Jermaine O'Neal scored 16 points, Mario Chalmers added 15 and Moon had 11 for Miami, which shot 2-for-17 with four turnovers in the final 5 1/2 minutes to waste what was a 91-80 lead. Not to mention wasting the second straight 40-plus scoring effort by Wade, who pulled off that feat for the second time in his career.

Cleveland was 11-for-17 from 3-point range—James was 6-for-7—while Miami was a mere 5-for-18.

Cleveland won in Atlanta on Sunday night, then boarded what was supposed to be a quick 90-minute flight to Miami. By the time the Cavaliers got to South Florida, the sun was coming up and it was time for breakfast.

Terrible weather kept the Cavaliers' plane on an Atlanta runway for 3 1/2 hours, and the team didn't get to its hotel until 7 a.m.

"We slept all day," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said.

Sure enough, the Cavaliers didn't look the least bit tired.

By the time the game was 10 minutes old, Cleveland had a 10-point lead. Delonte West created a five-point early swing by himself, intercepting a pass from Moon to deny Wade an easy transition dunk and then finding James open for a 3-pointer—part of a 14-point first quarter by the Cavs star.

Cleveland led 58-55 at the half after another 3-pointer by James a few seconds before the horn. Then Wade really got going.

He scored 15 points in the third quarter, three less than the Cavaliers managed, and Miami held Cleveland to 33 percent shooting in the period to build a cushion. Miami outscored the Cavs 17-5 over the final 5 1/2 minutes of the quarter. Wade blocked a dunk try by J.J. Hickson with 18.8 seconds left, and the Heat took an 82-76 edge into the fourth period.

James and Wade seemed like they were having a personal slam-dunk contest in the opening minutes of the final period.



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) shoots in the first quarter as Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem (40) defends during an NBA Basketball game in Miami on Monday, March 2, 2009.

James had a steal and two-handed windmill offering to get Cleveland within seven; Wade came back shortly thereafter with a steal and double-clutch reverse for an 91-80 Miami edge.

Over?

Not even close.

Cleveland ran off 12 straight points—the first eight coming in a span of 1:23, with Williams getting a pair of 3-pointers to quickly snap the Cavs right back into the game. And his leaning layup with 4:07 left not only gave Cleveland the lead, it had a crowd that spent most of the night chanting "M-V-P" at Wade actually booing for the first time.

They didn't have much to cheer the rest of the way, either.

## Hornets 98, 76ers 91

At Philadelphia, David West was big again for

New Orleans, scoring 30 points with 10 rebounds to lead the Hornets to their fifth straight win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

West was chosen the Western Conference player of the week only hours earlier on the strength of his 28.5 points and 10.5 rebounds in four Hornets' victories. The new week brought more of the same stellar production. West scored the Hornets' first 12 points as they raced to a 13-point lead. New Orleans is on a season-high winning streak.

Led by West, the Hornets won for the seventh time in nine games since the All-Star break.

Chris Paul bounced back from a two-point first half to finish with 16 points and 12 assists.

The Sixers lost for the sixth time in eight games since the All-Star break and continue to slide down the Eastern Conference standings. Their 14-4 run

last month had them in the hunt for the fourth seed and now they're closer to eighth.

Andre Iguodala scored 30 points and Andre Miller had 28 for Philadelphia.

## Hawks 98, Wizards 89

At Washington, Marvin Williams scored 28 points, and the Hawks completed a season sweep of the Wizards. Al Horford added 16 points, and Joe Johnson had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who broke open a tie game with a 20-6 run that started late in the third quarter and went well into the fourth.

The Hawks went 4-0 against the Wizards, sweeping the series for the first time since winning all four during the 1997-98 season. Atlanta was in need of a slump-busting win, having lost five of seven after Sunday night's one-point loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Antawn Jamison scored 23 points for the Wizards, who were more short-handed than usual when Caron Butler was scratched with tightness in his left hamstring. Washington fell to 0-13 against the Southeast Division, just three games away

## Thunder 96, Mavericks 87

At Oklahoma City, Nenad Krstic scored a season-high 23 points, rookie Russell Westbrook added 17 as part of his first career triple double, and the undermanned Thunder beat Dallas despite playing without their two leading scorers.

Kevin Durant (sprained ankle) and Jeff Green (back spasms) were both out, but the Thunder got Krstic's biggest scoring outing since December 2006. Westbrook had the franchise's first triple-double since an offseason move from Seattle with 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas' charge back from a 23-point deficit, and his 3-pointer from the right wing got the Mavericks back within 88-84 with 4:13 to play.

Those were the last of his 28 points, and Dallas didn't score again for 4 minutes.

## Spurs 106, Clippers 78

At Los Angeles, Tony Parker had 26 points and 10 assists, and the Spurs pulled away in the third quarter with four 3-pointers from Michael Finley.

Tim Duncan, playing his second game after missing the previous three with a sore right knee, had 18 points, 12 rebounds and six assists before sitting out the fourth quarter. The 11-time All-Star needs 18 points to overtake Scottie Pippen for 44th place on the career scoring list.

Finley and Matt Bonner each had 14 points for the Southwest Division leaders, who avoided their first three-game losing streak since starting the season 0-3.

Manu Ginobili, the NBA's sixth man of the year last season, missed his eighth straight game because of an ankle injury.

Al Thornton and Fred Jones each had 14 points for the Clippers, who have lost 11 straight against San Antonio and 19 of the last 20 meetings. Thornton missed 10 of his first 11 shots and finished 5-for-19.

# Nuggets suspend Anthony 1 game for 'transgression'

**DENVER (AP)**—The Denver Nuggets have suspended Carmelo Anthony for one game for an "in-game transgression" Sunday against Indiana.

"There is a code of conduct that we take very seriously, especially from a leader and co-captain," Rex Chapman, vice president of player personnel, said Monday. "Carmelo knows this and regrets what happened. He is a very competitive person and made a poor decision in the heat of the moment. We look forward to having him back on Thursday and will have no further comment at this time."

He did not elaborate on what Anthony did to earn the suspension.

The Denver Post, citing anonymous sources, said Anthony refused to come out of the game in

the third quarter when coach George Karl tried to remove him.

Whatever got Anthony in trouble wasn't apparent to reporters sitting courtside at the game, and Nuggets spokesman Eric Sebastian said the team didn't want to disclose the nature of the infraction. He said, however, that it didn't involve Anthony's technical foul after he argued about a non-call on his layup with 5:18 left in the Nuggets' 100-94 loss to the Pacers.

Anthony won't play in the Nuggets' game Tuesday night at Detroit. He will return to the lineup for the Nuggets' game Thursday night against Portland in Denver. The Nuggets lead the Trail Blazers by 1 1/2 games in the highly competitive Northwest Division.

Earlier Monday, the team had said that Anthony was returning to Denver to attend to a personal matter, leading to speculation his departure from Detroit had something to do with his balky knee that's been bothering him for some time.

This is Anthony's second suspension this season, both of them meted out by the team. He sat out the first two games of the season as punishment for his drunken driving arrest last spring while the Nuggets were pushing for a playoff berth.

He was suspended for 15 games in the 2006-07 season for his involvement in the Nuggets' brawl with the New York Knicks when he dropped guard Mardy Collins with a punch on Dec. 16, 2006. Ten players were ejected and seven sus-

pended, with Anthony receiving the stiffest punishment from commissioner David Stern.

Anthony, who helped the Americans win the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics last summer, is averaging a team-high 21.6 points and 7.4 rebounds. But he's missed 15 games already this season: 10 with a broken bone in his right hand that cost him an All-Star bid, three because of a troublesome right elbow and two for the suspension to start the season.

Anthony is the second Denver sports star to get in trouble in the last few days. Broncos Pro Bowl receiver Brandon Marshall got into a fight with his fiancée in Atlanta, subjecting himself to a lengthy suspension for repeated violations of the NFL's personal conduct code.



# Kurt Warner visits 49ers headquarters



**SANTA CLARA, Calif.** (AP)—Kurt Warner is being courted by an eager division rival of the Arizona Cardinals.

The San Francisco 49ers sent a private jet Monday for the two-time MVP quarterback, who traveled from Phoenix to the 49ers' Silicon Valley training complex. He underwent a physical exam and had a meeting with their top brass.

Warner led the Cardinals to the Super Bowl last season, but became a free agent when he didn't re-sign with the club. Arizona has offered a two-year, \$20 million contract to Warner, but he's apparently seeking a deal worth at least \$14 million per season.

For the right offer, the former St. Louis Rams star seems willing to leave Arizona, his home for the past four seasons. The 49ers have a new coach and a decent amount of talent, but no proven starting quarterback—so they rolled out the red-and-gold carpet for Warner.

"It's still up in the air," San Francisco general manager Scot McCloughan said while leaving the complex about 30 minutes before Warner departed in a stretch Range Rover limousine. "We're very excited he's willing to come visit us and possibly be a 49er. ... He's a very classy guy, and you can see why he's been so successful in his career, the way he carries himself."

NFC West rival San Francisco finished just two games behind the Cardinals in second place last season, and the club has enough cap room to accommodate Warner's salary wishes. Among the Niners' many obstacles would be enticing Warner, who will be 38 years old by training camp, to up-

This is a Feb. 1, 2009, file photo showing Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner throwing a pass during warm ups before the start of NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game, in Tampa, Fla.

AP



root his large family again.

After flying into San Jose, Warner and his wife, Brenda, arrived at the 49ers' training complex shortly before lunchtime. He had lunch and a meeting with McCloughan and coach Mike Singletary before traveling to Stanford Hospital for his exam.

Warner returned to the complex in a

Cadillac driven by 49ers athletic trainer Jeff Ferguson at about 4 p.m. Warner mouthed the words "I'm not talking" through the window to reporters as they drove through a security gate.

The Warners were expected to fly home Monday night, but McCloughan and owner Jed York indicated they might have dinner plans or

further discussions before he returned to Phoenix.

Warner proved he's still at the top of his talents last season. After claiming the Cardinals' starting job from Matt Leinart, Warner passed for 4,583 yards and 30 touchdowns, leading the franchise to its first division title since 1975. He also starred in four playoff

games, completing 68 percent of his passes for 1,147 yards and 11 TDs.

Singletary has been unwilling to designate veteran Shaun Hill as his starter for next season even after Hill led San Francisco to five wins in its final seven games and a 7-9 record that knocked the interim tag off Singletary's title. Hill has been an effective quarterback over the past two seasons, going 7-3 as a starter, but he doesn't have the arm strength or pedigree that wows coaches.

Alex Smith, the injury-plagued former No. 1 draft pick, is working on restructuring his contract to stay with the 49ers, who'll release him if they can't reach a deal with a much lower base salary than the \$9 million in his current contract.

The 49ers might not be the ideal football fit for Warner, who would leave a lineup with star receivers Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin to join a run-based offense with no proven pass-catchers—although Warner's arrival might persuade longtime Rams teammate Isaac Bruce to put off retirement for another season.

San Francisco's biggest signing Monday also pointed to another reason Warner might not be perfectly suited for the Niners. Fullback Moran Norris signed a three-year contract to return to the 49ers, who have repeatedly said they plan to build a run-first offense around running back Frank Gore and new coordinator Jimmy Raye.

But Warner met with Raye and quarterbacks coach Mike Johnson on Monday afternoon, talking football and weighing his options.

"We just said hello," York said of his interaction with Warner. "He's a great guy, class act, great person."

## Search narrows off Fla. Gulf Coast; man rescued

**CLEARWATER, Fla.** (AP)—The Coast Guard on Monday narrowed the search area for two NFL players and a third man missing since a weekend fishing trip off the Florida Gulf Coast after crews rescued a fourth man clinging to their capsized boat.

Survivor Nick Schuyler, a former University of South Florida player, told rescuers that the boat the four good friends were aboard was anchored when it flipped Saturday evening in rough seas, said Coast Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close. Schuyler, who was wearing a life vest, had been hanging onto the hull that a Coast Guard cutter discovered 35 miles off Clearwater.

The 21-foot boat belongs to Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, who, along with free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith and former South Florida player William Bleakley, were missing.

The Coast Guard wouldn't speculate on the men's chances of survival, but Petty Officer Robert Simpson said their size and good health were advantages. Cooper, 26, is 6-foot-3, 230 pounds, and the 29-year-old Smith is 6-foot-2, 250 pounds. The 25-year-old Bleakley had played tight end.

"With all of these men being past, present football players, they do have a much larger physique than a lot of people," he said. "So their odds are going to be definitely in their favor."

Their families have said they had life vests and flares aboard.

Schuyler was conscious but appeared weak as he was being taken off a heli-

copter at Tampa General Hospital and placed on a stretcher. His father said his son was in serious but stable condition and that he "looks OK."

"He's got some cuts and bruises. He's dehydrated," said Stuart Schuyler.

Schuyler's mother, Marsha Schuyler, said her son told her that he survived by thinking about how he didn't want her to go to his funeral.

The family's joy at him being found alive was tempered by the search for his friends.

"We still have three men missing, and we're not going to talk too much until we find these guys," said his father, Stuart Schuyler. "We're all praying for them. These guys are all very close friends."

Searchers had previously covered 16,000 square miles of ocean but the area being searched was much smaller since they found Schuyler, Close said.

Smith's family planned to drive to Florida from Richmond, Va., Tuesday, after the snowy weather in the East made getting a flight impossible, said Yolanda Newbill, one of Smith's sisters. She said they have been in contact with the Coast Guard every few hours since the search began.

"We have never lost hope," Newbill said. "We have total faith that (he) will be coming home."

Ray Sanchez of Tampa, a cousin of Cooper, said the family was confident the Coast Guard would find them.

"My cousin's a powerful swimmer," he said.

Bruce Cooper, the father of Mar-

quis Cooper who is also a prominent sportscaster for KPNX-TV in Phoenix, said in a statement Monday that the family has been overwhelmed with calls, e-mails and text messages from well-wishers.

"We remain hopeful that Marquis will be found and returned to us," Cooper said.

James Allen, a marine safety consultant who once worked search and rescue operations with the Coast Guard, said the chances of finding survivors diminish after people have been in the water three days.

Survivors have been found who were floating for days, but he added "you just can't swim forever."

After 18 hours in 64-degree water, hypothermia will set in, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class James Harless said.

The four men left Clearwater Pass early Saturday in calm weather, but heavy winds picked up through the day and the seas got heavy, with waves of 7 feet and higher, peaking at 15 feet on Sunday. A relative alerted the Coast Guard early Sunday after the men did not return as expected. The Coast Guard said it did not receive a distress signal.

The men were aboard an Everglades-manufactured boat, which is built with compressed foam encased in Fiberglass, making it difficult to sink. The weather had improved, with waves subsiding to 6 to 8 feet, National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Barron said.

However, Bob Zales, president of National Association of Charter Boat

Operators, said waves that high can capsize a boat the size of Cooper's.

"A boat that size, personally, I wouldn't get out any farther than 20 or 30 miles offshore," Zales said. "But I see people all the time 40, 50 miles offshore."

Smith of Richmond, had 30 tackles, including three sacks, and an interception in 12 games last season for the Detroit Lions. He also played for the San Francisco 49ers and was a standout at

### Workout refusal leads Redskins to cut DE Taylor

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Jason Taylor will have plenty of time to dance on TV this year. The former NFL defensive player of the year's disappointing turn in the nation's capital came to an end Monday when he was cut by the Washington Redskins for refusing to commit to the team's offseason workout program. The Redskins wanted to add a workout clause to Taylor's hefty contract, but the 34-year-old defensive end declined. The clause would have required Taylor to take part in 25 days of offseason workouts. The flap is reminiscent of last year, when Taylor clashed with the Miami Dolphins for competing in "Dancing With the Stars" rather than working out with the team in the offseason. Taylor finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi on the reality television show. The six-time Pro Bowl end had been considered a possible salary cap cut in Washington because of the value of his contract, which would have paid him a salary of about \$8.5 million this season. The Redskins, however, were

North Carolina State.

Cooper, 26, played college ball at Washington, and has spent five seasons with five different teams, appearing in 26 games with the Buccaneers in 2004 and 2005. He's played sparingly since. He grew up in Gilbert, Ariz.

The Raiders and Lions said in separate statements that the teams hope the men will be rescued and that their thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

willing to give him the full salary if he had agreed to the workout clause.

### Reports: Seahawks get Houshmandzadeh

T.J. Houshmandzadeh and the Seattle Seahawks agreed on a five-year contract, according to media reports Monday. Citing unidentified sources, ESPN.com, The NFL Network and the Seattle Post Intelligencer reported on their Web sites that the former Cincinnati Bengals receiver's deal is for \$40 million and includes \$15 million in guarantees. His agent, Kennard McGuire, did not respond to repeated text messages, e-mails and calls to his cell phone and office on Monday. The 31-year-old Houshmandzadeh has caught 204 passes in the last two seasons. Seattle didn't have a wide receiver catch more than Bobby Engram's 47 last season. The Seahawks had seven injuries at the position while sliding to a 4-12 finish in 2008. Houshmandzadeh teamed with Chad Johnson to give the Bengals one of the best receiving tandems in the NFL in 2005, when the Bengals had their only winning record in the last 18 years.



# Inchcape, MBI boost playoff chances

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Inchcape and MBI strengthened their playoffs bids in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League after recording contrasting wins Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Inchcape pulled off an 86-80 win over Athlete's Foot in the second game, while MBI walloped the San Antonio Shooters in the curtain raiser, 88-69.

The 19-point win improved MBI's record to 6-3 and put the team in solo fifth place in the team standings. Inchcape gained

its fifth victory in 10 games and is now in solo sixth spot.

Only the Top 8 teams after the round-robin regular season will advance to the single elimination playoffs.

Athlete's Foot dropped to a 5-5 record and will be battling Uncle Ben (5-6) and IT&E (4-6) for the last two playoff spots.

The Shooters (2-9), Rollers 670 (1-10), and Mobil (1-10) had been eliminated.

Excluding last night's matches, four more regular season games will be played this week and the playoff round is expected to start next week.

Dan Mateo led MBI to an

easy win, firing 31 points. J.R. Barrios and Leo Apelo added 18 and 12 markers, respectively.

MBI had a jackrabbit start with Mateo drilling 12 of the team's 32 points in the period period and Barrios chipping in 10.

It was cruise control for MBI from then on.

In the second game, Inchcape withstood Athlete's Foot fourth-quarter rally behind the timely baskets of Manuel Ajoste and Peter Mendiola.

Ajoste buried two triples in the fourth and scored 10 markers, while Mendiola contributed six to lift Inchcape to a six-point win.

## First Game

**MBI 88** – Mateo 31, Barrios 18, Apelo 12, Llagas 9, Aranda 6.

**San Antonio 69** – Mangali 29, Pepito 13, Zapata 12, Palma 9, Buhay 4, Marcelo 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 32-14, 38-27, 63-50, 88-69

## Second Game

**Inchcape 86** – Ajoste 30, Mendiola 18, Ranola 13, De Dios 11, Casabuena 2, Olivios 2, Buenabajo 2, Tobias 2.

**Athlete's Foot 80** – Arreza 24, Joyner 16, Guiab 12, Esdrelon 11, Mateo 10, Sablan 3, Ong 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-15, 39-30, 60-50, 86-80.



Inchcape's Peter Mendiola, (34), goes up for a shot against Athlete's Foot's Jojo Ong during their game in the Navy Hill caging Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

For more information, contact Lindsey Sosovec PIC by phone at 235-6231 ext. 5147 or email at [sportsmanager@picsaipan.com](mailto:sportsmanager@picsaipan.com). (PR)

# PIC to host 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships



Pacific Islands Club will host the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships from March 27 to 30 at the resort's tennis courts in San Antonio.

The first weekend of competition will consist of men's singles, women's singles and juniors singles. The second weekend will then feature men's doubles,

women's doubles, juniors doubles, and mixed doubles.

The singles categories will be made up of three men's divisions (open, 4.0, and 3.0), two women's divisions (open and 4.0), two boys divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), and two girls divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under).

The doubles, meanwhile, will consist of three men's divisions

(open, 4.0, and 3.0), two women's divisions (open and 4.0), two boys divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), two girls divisions (14-and-under and 10-and-under), and two mixed divisions (open and 4.0).

The singles and doubles open divisions are guaranteed cash prizes for the winner and finalist. All other winners and finalists will receive prizes donated

from the tournament sponsors.

PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading Co., including Gatorade and Pepsi, Island Apparel, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and Rota Resort are on board as tournament sponsors.

The entry fee is \$15 for single events and \$20 per team for the doubles events. All participants will be provided with water-park passes to help them relax

between matches. Tournament entry forms can be found at the PIC Information Desk, Tennis Center, and American Memorial Park tennis courts from 9am to 6pm daily.

The entry deadline for the first weekend of competition is March 22 at 5pm, while the entry deadline for the second weekend of competition is March 27 at 5pm.

## REZNE

From Page 28

"We were so lucky to witness Sakai break the 100m backstroke record. She is only 17 years old and a big inspira-

tion for young swimmers, like Rezne and Shin," said Hiro, who also met several coaches in Japan and learn a thing or two

from them.

"They encouraged us to continue competing in off-island tournaments. They are also in-

terested in coming to Saipan, hopefully they could visit us and join our tournaments here," he added.

## WABOL

From Page 28

regional tournaments, such as SPG and Micronesian Games," Wabol said.

"Now I am in the company of the best and respected players and sports officials in the CNMI. I could not ask for more, there's nothing left to prove," he added.

Wabol was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last month during the 2008 NMAA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

He became the 13th member of the elite group, joining the 2003 class of swimming coaches Bill and Jean Sakovich, basketball's Tony Rogolifoi, and swimmer Mike Villagomez, 2004's Irene Alpet of tennis, Tony Satur of softball, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios of baseball, and athletics' Kurt Barnes, 2005's Cecilia Lisua of athletics and Jose Tenorio Sablan of softball, 2006's Ricardo Duenas of athletics and volleyball, and 2007's Antonio Benavente of baseball.

Wabol had gone a long way since he and friend, Tony Satur, carved guava and tangan tangan

trees to use as golf clubs.

"But I stopped carving guava trees and used other trees, as I was scolded by my grandmother. From those wooden-card clubs, we used at the Whispering Palms Golf Course [now Saipan Golf Course], we then borrowed real clubs from Sid Taisacan and Jess Taitano," said Wabol.

"Clubs were pretty expensive then, and we owe it to Sid and Jess that we were able to use good clubs," he added.

Wabol polished his game in the late 1980s to the 1990s, joining one tournament after another here and in the Philippines,

and representing the CNMI in the Micronesian Games, South Pacific Games, and Mini South Pacific Games.

During those times, he was known as one of the longest hitters in the CNMI. But in 2003, after undergoing a back operation, he slowed down.

"After my operation in 2003, doctor's order prevented me from playing golf for one year. It [stop playing] was one of the hardest things to do. You wake up in the morning thinking of golf, in the afternoon, you think about golf, too, and before you sleep, you still think about golf. I breathe golf and eat golf,"

Wabol said.

When he returned to the greens in 2004, the power-hitter golfer was gone, and was replaced by a finesse one.

"I thank Jeff [Taylor] and Tony [Satur] for helping me become a finesse player. They were the ones who encouraged me that I don't have to hit the ball so hard from the tee area. They taught me to calculate my shots and consider the hazards and traps before hitting the ball," he added.

"Now, I can say I am a better player than when I was a long hitter then. I am wiser, too," said the 51-year-old golfer.

## DALHAUSSER

From Page 28

1pm to 2pm.

The pros will motivate students about teamwork and the benefits kids get if they take part in sports activities.

On Thursday morning, they will appear on the Harry Blalock radio program to invite children to join the free kids' clinic at the Pacific Islands Club, which is set from 3pm to 5pm that very day.

The pros from the U.S., Korea, and Japan will conduct drills and offer advice to the islands'

aspiring volleyball players.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association said this year's event, slated from March 7 to 8 at the PIC sand courts, will be the largest ever.

Dalhausser will be playing for the fourth time, while three other U.S. pros will also showcase their talents, including Paul Baxter, Jennifer Snyder, and Jenelle Koester.

For the first time in the history of the annual event, four pros each from Japan and Korea will also be competing. The Japanese players are Shimpei Aoki, Yasuo Nakaya, Shinako Tanaka,

and Hiromi Suzuki.

Korean Ji Youn Jun joined the event last year but this time she brought with her three other pros namely Kyung Su Shin, Su Min Jun, and Mi Hwa Shin.

After the exhibition matches tomorrow, there will be a pro-raffle where amateur teams will be able to purchase raffle tickets at \$10 a piece for a chance to recruit pros as their partners.

The pro-am format allows regular volleyball enthusiasts to potentially play with a U.S. gold Olympian. Last year's lucky winner was KSPN's own Chris Nelson who was teamed

up with Dalhausser.

The actual tournament begins on Saturday morning at 9am at PIC and ends with the awards banquet on Sunday night. Interested teams must sign up by 5pm Friday. Entry forms (\$60 per team) for the Marianas Cup is available at PIC front desk.

NMIVA thanks all the sponsors for contributing to this worthwhile, international event. Sponsors include Aon Insurance, Aqua Resort Club, Chong's Corporation, Delta Management Corporation, Glooay Mai Thai Spa, Gregg Elliott Artworks, Elite Printing, Hertz, Hyatt Regency

Saipan, Island Apparel, IT&E, KSPN2, LISS, Marianas Eye Institute, Marianas Medical Center, Mariana Resort & Spa, Marianas Trekking, Marianas Visitors Authority, Microl Corp., Miller Lite, Monster, No Ka Oi, Northwest Airlines, Pacific Development, Inc., Pacific Eagle Enterprises, Pepsi/Gatorade, PIC Guam, PIC Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, Seafix Inc., Shell Marianas, Star Sands Plaza, Stars & Stripes, Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Topnotch, Traders Insurance, Triple J Wholesale, and WDI Saipan (Tony Roma's & Capricciosa's).

Tech Gym in Afetnas.

Entry fee is \$20 for every fighter per class. Competitors will receive a shirt upon signing up. He added that fighters under 18 years old must have their parents sign the waiver form.

## THE CRANK

From Page 28

He said Camacho's hard work and determination always pushes him past his natural talent and his

results speak for themselves.

Camacho's next fight will be in mixed martial arts where he excels the most.

Alvarez said MMA is Camacho's forte and he is set to fight in Virginia this May.

Meanwhile, Alvarez announced yesterday that registration forms and rules for the upcoming The Art of War III is now available for interested participants.

The event is scheduled on

March 14 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Grapplers from Saipan, Guam, and Japan will be participating and entrance fee is \$5.

Alvarez said fighter can sign up until March 13 at the Trench

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	47	14	.770	—
Philadelphia	29	30	.492	17
New Jersey	26	33	.441	20
New York	24	35	.407	22
Toronto	23	38	.377	24

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	47	12	.797	—
Detroit	29	29	.500	17 1/2
Milwaukee	29	33	.468	19 1/2
Chicago	27	33	.450	20 1/2
Indiana	26	36	.419	22 1/2

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	43	16	.729	—
Atlanta	34	26	.567	9 1/2
Miami	31	28	.525	12
Charlotte	25	35	.417	18 1/2
Washington	14	46	.233	29 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	39	19	.672	—
Houston	38	22	.633	2
New Orleans	37	22	.627	2 1/2
Dallas	36	24	.600	4
Memphis	15	43	.259	24

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	39	21	.650	—
Portland	37	22	.627	1 1/2
Utah	37	23	.617	2
Minnesota	18	41	.305	20 1/2
Oklahoma City	15	45	.250	24

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
LA Lakers	48	12	.800	—
Phoenix	34	25	.576	13 1/2
Golden State	20	39	.339	27 1/2
LA Clippers	15	45	.250	33
Sacramento	13	48	.213	35 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 107, Miami 100  
New Orleans 98, Philadelphia 91  
Atlanta 98, Washington 89  
Oklahoma City 96, Dallas 87  
San Antonio 106, LA Clippers 78

By The Associated Press

### LOCAL SCORES

#### BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS

	W	L
CNMI Nationals	7	1
O'Aces	6	3
IT & E	6	3
Diamond Auto Fixers	3	5
Quichocho Law Office	3	5
Docomo	2	6
Runnin' Rebels	2	6

#### NAVY HILL STANDINGS

	W	L
Dollar Days	10	1
Docomo	8	1
RBC Rollers	8	2
Taco Bell/KFC	7	3
MBI	6	3
Inchcape	5	3
Athlete's Foot	5	5
Uncle Ben	5	6
IT & E	4	6
San Antonio Shooters	2	9
670 Rollers	1	10
Mobil	1	10



# CNMI Nationals remain on top

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Nationals are still on top of the standings in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League following a 99-77 rout of Diamond Auto Care Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the Nationals' seventh in eight games, putting them a victory ahead of second placers Ol'Aces (6-2) and IT&E (6-2).

A 37-21 run allowed the CNMI Nationals to go home with a 22-point winning margin after three closely fought periods.

The Nationals, which also whipped Diamond in the first round, 79-59, were ahead by a hair in the first period, 22-21, and increased the lead in the second quarter, 42-33, before Diamond inched in closer at the end of the third canto, 42-33.

The fourth period was an all Nationals show led by an offensive outburst from guard Allen Moses. Moses fired 15 of his 20 points in the fourth period,

including eight straight markers in a span of two minutes. He made three triples in the final period, conspiring with Marvin Rabauliman and Pete Iguel in the fourth-quarter breakaway. Iguel and Rabauliman combined for 16 points in the last period.

Moses' impressive offensive game made up for the absence of gunner Jericho Cruz, who played on Tinian the same night the Nationals duelled the Auto Fixers.

Diamond had its three-game winning streak snapped and the team dropped to a 3-5 record, tying Quichocho Law Office for fourth to fifth place in the team standings.

In the first game, the Ol'Aces outgunned IT&E in the last 4:53 of the game, 18-10, to improve to a 6-2 record and tie the latter in second place.

The game was deadlocked for the last time at 84-all, after Andres "Juhn" Estolas Jr. split his charities. Romeo Iginoef then sparked a decisive 10-0 run to give the Ol'Aces a double-digit lead, 94-84, going into the last two minutes of the game.



CNMI Nationals swingman Pete Iguel, right, challenges the defense of Diamond Auto Care forward Melvin Capalad during their game in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Estolas broke IT&E's silence with a layup, but IT&E was held to only a field goal after that basket, losing their chance to recover and take solo second place in the team standings.

Freddie Pelisamen exploded for a season-high 44 point for the Ol'Aces, who prevailed over IT&E in the first round with a 128-125 double overtime win.

## First Game

**Ol'Aces 102** – Pelisamen 44, Rangamar 21, Renguul 12, Iginoef 10, C. Camacho 9, White 3, Omar 2, P. Camacho 1.

**IT&E 94** – Estolas 25, Bernardo 24, Abuel 17, De Dios 9, Ruluked 6, Montano 4, Ranola 4, Mendiola 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-25, 52-49, 76-68, 102-94.

## Second Game

**CNMI Nationals 99** – Rabauliman 25, Iguel 21, Moses 20, Johnson 14, Tumaquip 6, Chariton 2.

**Diamond Auto Care 77** – Camacho 22, Muleta 13, Dayrit 13, Capalad 11, Marasigan 4, Fernandez 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-21, 42-33, 62-56, 99-77.

## JOS Corp. defends Friday Night title

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**  
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REPORTER



JOS Corp. thrived on pure team effort to bag its first back-to-back championship in the 23rd season of the Philippine Bowling Association Friday Night League that concluded last Feb. 13 at the Capitol Bowling Center.

The repeat champions closed out with a 48-24 win-loss record despite not having anyone of their players winning any of the 29 special awards that were given out, including 12 in the team and 17 in the individual categories.

Anchored by Orly Ebuén, Jorge Soledad, Dannie Robles, Atoy Banting, Rey Madrilejos, Ferdee Generoso, Ruben Avendano, Paul Bea, and team captain Joe Digno, JOS Corp. pocketed a total of \$600.

"It's a team effort. We have a bal-

anced lineup. Everybody contributed. We're more than happy despite not having any prize in the individual awards," Digno said during a simple awards ceremony held at the start of the 24th season last Friday, Feb. 27.

It was also the third PBA title for JOS Corp. since winning its first in season 18. They also did it in November last year.

Team #10 grabbed all the special awards in team highs and one of its players reaped six individual awards but they settled for second place in the final standings with a 46-26 record, which gave them \$350.

RR Consulting placed third with a 44-28 win-loss record, good for \$250; while Team #5 was fourth with a 41-31 slate. IT&E finished fifth with a 39-33 record. The two latter teams pocketed \$150 and \$100, respectively.

Powered by the sterling performance of Simon Manacop, Team #10 was first in team high game scratch with a total

of 1,067 pins for an additional \$40. Team #5 was second with 980 pins for \$35, while RR Consulting was third with 962 for \$25.

Manacop's teammates included Kitz Barja, Norman Del Rosario, Richard Leong, Mario Mayuga, Marie Manansala, Alex Yu, and Diego Villagomez.

Team #10 was also first in high game with handicap (1,152 pins) for another \$40. Ambyth was second (1,129 pins) for \$35, and Mister Swifts third (1,127 pins) for \$25.

Team #10 led the league in high series scratch (2,922 pins) for \$45, RR Consulting (2,753 pins) for \$40 and Team #5 was third (2,731) for \$30.

Team #10 also came first in high series with handicap (2,731 pins) for \$45 each. IT&E was second (3,182) for \$40 and Mister Swifts third (3,152) for \$30.

Manacop was adjudged as the men's most improved bowler in the men's division (+16.10) by leading the way in



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of back-to-back champion JOS Corp. smile for the camera after receiving their trophies during the awards ceremony of the 23rd season of the Philippine Bowling Association Friday Night League held last Feb. 27 at the Capital Bowling Center.

four of the five individual awards.

Manacop, a police officer with the Department of Public Safety, was first in high game scratch with 278 pins. Raymond Zapanta of Team #5 placed second.

Manacop and Zapanta went 1-2 in high game with handicap with 293 and 282 pins, respectively. In the high series scratch, Manacop beat his teammate Leong after they finished with 690 and 667, respectively. The two were also at it in the high average with Manacop rolling a 197.10 and Leong a 187.35.

However, Chester Bai prevented Manacop from sweeping the individual awards after closing with a 714 against the latter's 710 in the high series with handicap.

In the ladies division, Ron Cal topped

four of five individual awards, including high game scratch (215), high series scratch (604), high series with handicap (706), and high average (160.74).

Pau Ramos became the most improved bowler in the ladies division after upping her score by an average of 6.75 pins.

Organizers said there had been a continuing decline in the number of teams participating which averaged 16 in the past.

The 12 teams last year was trimmed to 10 in the recently started season. The current teams include two-time defending champion JOS Corp., Team #10, RR Consulting, Team #5, IT&E Life in Motion, Ambyth, IT&E Gcash, Waloka, Python, and No Smoking Please.

Mister Swifts and MIFICPA decided not to join the newly opened season.

## Olopai keeps RGA February Ace

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER



Refaluwasch Golf Association members struggled in last weekend's tournament at the Marianas Country Club, allowing Tars Olopai to keep the RGA February Ace.

Olopai shot a net 66 in the RGA February qualifying tournament early last month at Kingfisher Golf Links and on Feb. 28 at MCC, 16 tried to break the score to beat and faltered.

Asterio Tawanpiy, who topped last weekend's tournament, was Olopai's closest pursuer, but the former was still seven strokes behind the latter.

The nine-handicapper Tawanpiy had a 41 on both nines for a gross 82 and net 73. Olopai, who is also a nine-handicapper, tamed Kingfisher with his 36 and 39 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 79.

Olopai still played at MCC, but scored only a net 74, tying four others for second to sixth places. In the scorecard tiebreak on the back nines, Ben Duenas secured second place with his net 33.5, followed by Jess Wabol (35), Olopai (35.5), Dwayne Stephens (36), and Ben Bae (40).

Bae Young Man finished seventh with his net 76, followed by Manny Mangarero (78), Cui Xiang Lai (78), Ton Tebuteb (79), Tony Satur (80), Jordan Kossam (81), Louie Tilipao (81), Joe Wabol (84), Jack Sablan (84), and Gus Camacho (86).

Mangarero and Sablan won closest to the pin contests on hole Nos. 6 and 12, respectively.

Meanwhile, RGA tournament director Jess Wabol said the Inaugural San Jose Church Fundraising Golf Tournament on March 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links will also serve as a March qualifying tournament for the club.

Wabol said RGA members joining the fundraising tournament will pay \$20, besides the entrance fee of \$100.

Next weekend's tournament aims to raise funds for the much needed repairs of the San Jose Church. Tee time is set at 7:30am, while check in time is at 6:30am.

The tournament offers top prizes in two divisions—low gross and low net double peoria.

Low gross will have both men's and women's categories. First place gets \$300, second \$200, and third \$100.

The low net double peoria is co-ed and will award \$300 for first place, \$250 for second, and \$150 for third.

Organizers will also hold closest to the pin competitions in holes No. 8, 12, and 15. Five prizes will also be up for grabs in skills challenge in hole No. 6.

For more information about the San Jose tournament, call Mangarero at 235-2609 or 878-4499, Rev. Fr. Jesse Reyes at 234-6991 or 483-PALE, Jess Wabol at 233-3673, or Jerry Ayuyu at 286-1400.

## Mt. Carmel Golf tourney moved to May 9

The 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament has been moved to May 9 from its original date of March 14.

The tournament will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course with registration set at 6:30am and tee time an hour later at 7:30am.

Trophies and other gift prizes will be given to the Top 3 winners in the Championships, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors Flight, and Ladies Flight.

An awards banquet will be held immediately following the tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort grounds.

Although the tournament has no entry fee, participants are requested to donate \$100 to help support the only Catholic school on Saipan. The donation will cover green and cart fees as well as prizes and the awards banquet.

For more information, call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 or Margaret Dela Cruz at 235-1251. (PR)





## LeBron scores 42 in Cavs win over Heat

LeBron James scored 42 points, Mo Williams got 17 of his 30 in the fourth quarter, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final minutes to beat the Heat 107-100 on Monday night.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## CNMI Nationals Aremain on top

The CNMI Nationals are still on top of the standings in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League following a 99-77 rout of Diamond Auto Care Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Rezne, Shin swim well in Japan Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Rezne Wong and Shin Kimura submitted decent times in their respective events in the 50th Japan Swimming Championships in Tokyo last month.

This despite their relative unfamiliarity with the competition's shorter 25-meter pool.

Wong competed in four events, namely the 50m and 100m breaststroke and the 100m and 200m individual medley. Kimura joined the 50m and 100m freestyle swims.

Wong timed in at 32.26 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, clocking in faster than his time (33.18 seconds) in a 50-meter pool or the long course. Saipan does not keep short course records, as it only has

a 50-meter pool in the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The Marianas High School student posted 1:09.25 in the 100m breaststroke and again his time in the 25-meter pool in the said event was faster than his record of 1:10.21 in the long course. In January, during the long course swim in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam,

Wong broke the 1:10.00 barrier in the 100m breaststroke, but the mark was nullified, as he was disqualified due to an illegal dolphin kick.

In the two individual medley events in Tokyo, Wong recorded 1:02.54 (100m) and 2:14.26 (200m).

Kimura clocked in at 28.73 seconds and 1:01.95 in the 50m and 100m freestyle events, respectively, and these times were also better than his personal best in a long course.

The two Tsunami Saipan swimmers



From left, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Shin Kimura and Rezne Wong pose in front of the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

competed in the short course tournament held at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku from Feb. 21 to 22, after getting invitations from Japan Swimming Federation's Kiho Abe.

Joining Wong and Kimura in Japan was Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who was thankful for the opportunity presented to his two swimmers.

"They did well in Japan. Swimming against top caliber swimmers made Rezne and Shin mentally tough. They learned a lot of techniques, which they applied in their training sessions as soon as we returned on Saipan," Hiro said.

The tournament in Tokyo featured medalists and finalists in last year's FINA World Championships in Beijing Olympics.

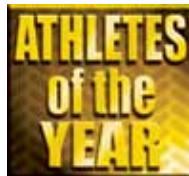
Hiro said Wong and Shin were able to watch the record-breaking performance of Shiho Sakai, whom the Tsunami Saipan swimmers met in Guam during the Pan Pacific meet.

See REZNE on Page 26

## Wabol is now Mr. Hall of Fame

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Last of a six-part series



Jess Wabol had his big share of victories in various golf tournaments in the Commonwealth and making it to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame was icing on the cake in his 26 fruitful years on the greens.

"I had won one local tournament after another, winning in NMC, HANMI, Hyatt, Tournament of Champions, and churches' fundraisers. I also had the honor of representing the CNMI in various

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CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee Jess Wabol is flanked by Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes, right, and vice president Lou Wabol, left, after the NMA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel last month.

## Dalhausser and company to visit 3 schools today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Professional beach volleyball players who just arrived on Saipan for the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival are visiting three schools today to talk to students and share their knowledge and experiences about the sport.

Led by Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser, the pros will begin their tour at the Saipan International School from 8:30am to 9:30am.

From SIS, they will proceed to Ladera International School from 10am to 11am then visit Saipan Community School from

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Phil Dalhausser teamed up with Todd Rogers to power the U.S. to a gold medal win over the tandem of Fabio Magalhaes and Marcio Araujo of Brazil in the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

## The Crank strikes gold in NAGA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Frank "The Crank" Camacho continued to make the CNMI proud after a winning a gold medal in recent competition of the North American Grappling Association.

Camacho participated for the first time as a blue belt in the gi division on the way to becoming the champion.

Trench Tech Inc. president Cuki Alvarez said Camacho truly makes Saipan and the rest of the CNMI proud while he continues to fight in the U.S.

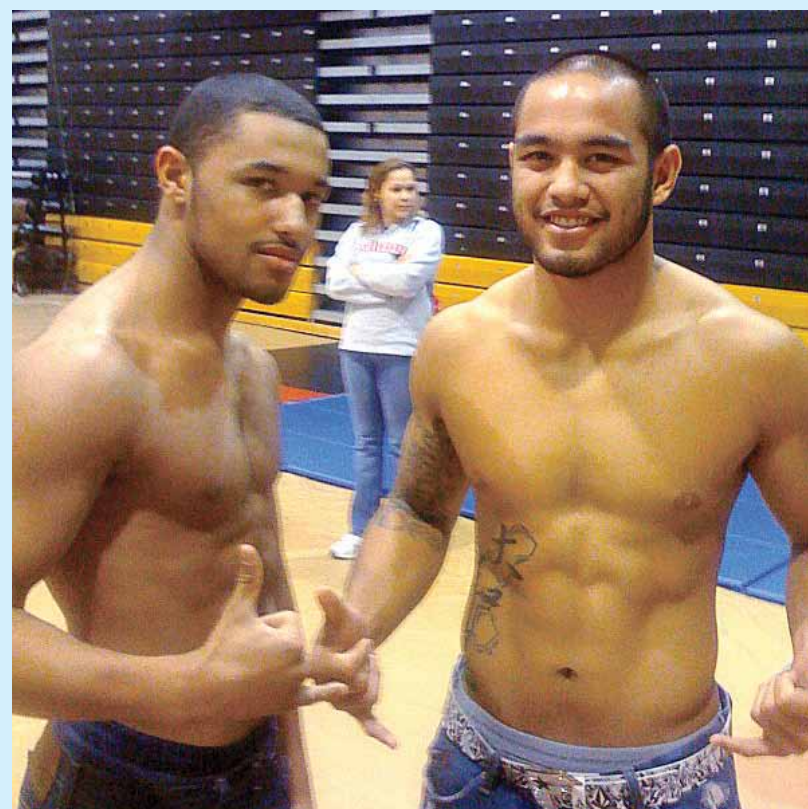
Alvarez said Camacho also competed in the open advanced no gi division where he took on advanced practitioner's training.

Unfortunately, he lost his first match in the no gi to a black belt fighter.

"Frank continues to represent our islands and our people in prestigious tournaments around the United States.

He has participated in a handful of grappling tournaments this past year where he continues to excel and place in the Top 3 consistently," Alvarez said in an e-mail.

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Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, poses with another fighter during the weigh-in of the recent North American Grappling Association competition.